PCT W INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 :
C12N 15/53, 9/02, 1/21, 15/01, C12P 7/02 // (C12N 9/02, C12R 1:40) (C12N 9/02, C12R 1:11) (C12N 1/21, C12R 1:19)

A2

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/31273

(43) International Publication Date: 2 June 2000 (02.06.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/03873

(22) International Filing Date: 19 November 1999 (19.11.99)

(30) Priority Data:
9825421.2 19 November 1998 (19.11.98) GB

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: ISIS INNOVATION LIMITED [GB/GB]; Ewert House, Ewert Place, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7BZ (GB).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: WONG, Luet, Lok [GB/GB]; University of Oxford, Dept. of Chemistry, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QR (GB). BELL, Stephen, Graham [GB/GB]; University of Oxford, Dept. of Chemistry, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QR (GB). CARMICHAEL, Angus, Bishop [GB/GB]; University of Oxford, Dept. of Chemistry, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QR (GB).

(74) Agent: ELLIS–JONES, Patrick, George, Armine; J.A. Kemp & Co., 14 South Square, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5LX (GB).

(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
Without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report.

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR OXIDISING TERPENES

(57) Abstract

A process for oxidising a substrate which is an acyclic or cyclic terpene, or a cycloalkene; or a substituted derivative thereof, which process comprises oxidising said compound with a mutant haem–containing enzyme, the mutant comprising the substitution of an amino acid in the active site by an amino acid with a less polar side–chain. The enzyme is typically $P450_{cam}$ or $P450_{BM-3}$. Cells and libraries of cells in which the process can be carried out or which can be used to select advantageous mutant enzymes are also provided.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania
AM	Armenia
AT	Austria
AU	Australia
AZ	Azerbaijan
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
BB	Barbados
BE	Belgium
BF	Burkina Faso
BG	Bulgaria
BJ	Benin
BR	Brazil
BY	Belarus
CA	Canada
CF	Central African Republic
CG	Congo
CH	Switzerland
CI	Côte d'Ivoire
CM	Cameroon
CN	China
CU	Cuba
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
GA	Gabon
GB	United Kingdom
GE	Georgia
GH	Ghana
GN	Guinea
GR	Greece
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IL	Israel
IS	Iceland
IT	Italy
JP	Japan
KE	Kenya
KG	Kyrgyzstan
KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
KR	Republic of Korea
KZ	Kazakstan
LC	Saint Lucia
LI	Liechtenstein
LK	Sri Lanka
LR	Liberia
LS	Lesotho
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
MC	Monaco
MD	Republic of Moldova
MG	Madagascar
MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
ML	Mali
MN	Mongolia
MR	Mauritania
MW	Malawi
MX	Mexico
NE	Niger
NL	Netherlands
NO	Norway
NZ	New Zealand
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
RU	Russian Federation
SD	Sudan
SE	Sweden
SG	Singapore
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovakia
SN	Senegal
SZ	Swaziland
TD	Chad
TG	Togo
TJ	Tajikistan
TM	Turkmenistan
TR	Turkey
TT	Trinidad and Tobago
UA	Ukraine
UG	Uganda
US	United States of America
UZ	Uzbekistan
VN	Viet Nam
YU	Yugoslavia
ZW	Zimbabwe

PROCESS FOR OXIDISING TERPENES

The invention relates to a process for enzymatically oxidising terpenes and cycloalkenes.

Terpenoid compounds are widespread in biological systems and constitute one of the largest class of natural products. They are major constituents of essential oils, some of which are of considerable value in the flavour and perfume industries. Many terpenoids are also biologically active. Some are anti-bacterial and anti-fungal agents and thus are of great interest to the pharmaceutical industry. Indeed, terpenoids are some of the highest added value chemicals.

The terpenoids of commercial interest are not normally the terpenes themselves, but rather derivatives which commonly require stereoselective functionalisation at allylic as well as non-activated carbon-hydrogen bonds of the parent terpene. This type of chemical transformation is one of the most difficult reaction to carry out by conventional methods of chemical synthesis - the highly reactive chemical oxidising agents required are non-selective and typically they will preferentially attack more activated carbon-hydrogen bonds and reactive functional groups such as olefinic double bonds commonly present in terpenes.

The present invention concerns the enzymatic oxidation of terpenes and cycloalkenes. This technique enables the synthesis of hydroxylated terpenes (and cycloalkenes), often in a single step, and provided that the match between substrate and enzyme is correct, the oxidation reaction can be highly chemoselective (attack at a particular functional group such as a non-activated C-H bond rather than some other reactive functional group) and stereoselective. The fine tuning and alterations of substrate specificity and selectivity of substrate oxidation are very difficult to achieve for

conventional reagents.

The present invention provides a process for oxidising a substrate which is an acyclic or cyclic terpene or a cycloalkene, or a substituted derivative thereof, which process comprises oxidising said compound with a mutant haem-containing enzyme, the mutant comprising the substitution of an amino acid in the active site by an amino acid with a less polar side-chain.

Although the terpenes used in the present invention will generally have the formula $(C_5H_8)_n$ where n is 2 or more, especially 2, 3 or 4, it is to be understood that the term "terpene" extends to compounds which are strictly referred to as "terpenoid", involving the loss or shift of a fragment, generally a methyl group. Thus, for example, sesquiterpenes (where n is 3) which can be used in the present invention may contain only, say, 14, rather than 15, carbon atoms. Generally the terpene is one which can be built up from isoprene units. The terpene may be cyclic or acyclic.

The monoterpenes (where n is 2) will generally have 10 carbon atoms, typically with 1 to 3 double bonds, especially 1 or 2 ring double bonds, and typically with 0 to 2 rings. It is possible for one of the rings to be formed as a bridge containing, typically 0 or 1 carbon atoms. In other words, it can be formed by a direct link between 2 carbon atoms of an existing ring or with an intermediate methylene group. If the terpene is acyclic it will generally contain at least 2 double bonds and generally 3.

The sesquiterpenes will normally contain 14 or 15 carbon atoms, typically with 0 to 2 double bonds and typically 1 to 3 rings, with the possibility of fused rings and/or bridged rings.

The rings which may be present in the terpenes will

typically have from 3 to 9 carbon atoms, more especially 5 or 6 carbon atoms. Thus, in particular, the terpenes will contain a cyclohexane, or cyclohexadiene ring.

The terpenes will generally contain a total of 3 or 4 exocyclic methyl or methylene groups, for example 2 methyl groups and 1 methylene group or 3 methyl groups for a monoterpene, and 3 methyl groups and 1 methylene group or 4 methyl groups for a sesquiterpene.

The monoterpene is typically a limonene, pinene, terpinene, sabinene, thujene, mercene, ocimeme, nerol or geraniol, for example as shown in Table 1.

The sesquiterpene is generally formed by a head-to-tail arrangement of three isoprene units. The sesquiterpene is typically an aromadendrene, caryophyllene, longifolene, valencene, isobazzanene, silphinene, ishwarane, isopatchchoul-3-ene, or isosesquicarene, for example as shown in Table 2.

The diterpene (where n is 4) is typically casbene, retinal, abietic acid or a gibberellin.

The cycloalkene generally comprises up to 9 ring members, e.g. it is a 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or more membered ring. The cycloalkene is typically a cyclohexene.

Substituted derivatives of any of the terpenes or cycloalkenes mentioned above may also be used. Typically 1, 2, 3 or more substituents are present. Any combination of the following substituents may be present. The substituent is typically a halogen atom or an alkyl or alkenyl group, which generally has 1 to 6 carbons, the substituent optionally being substituted with one or more halogens. It is generally not phenylcyclohexene. Indeed the presence of aromatic, such as phenyl, rings is generally avoided for all the substrates used in the invention.

The substituent typically has the formula $C_nH_kX_m$, wherein X, is the halogen, n is 1, 2, 3 or more, m is 1,

2, 3, 4 or more and k is an integer which has an appropriate value so that the valencies of the substituent $C_nH_kX_m$ are satisfied. For an alkyl substituent k+m = 2n+1. Typically k is 1, 2, 3, 4 or more, or may be 0, i.e. the substituent is a perhaloalkyl group. The halogen is typically fluorine, chlorine or bromine.

The substituent may also comprise 1, 2 or more oxygen atoms and for example may be an alcohol, aldehyde, ketone or epoxide group.

The oxidation causes the formation of a C-O bond in the compound, generally as the hydroxide from the oxidation of a carbon-hydrogen bond, but an epoxide may be formed from the oxidation of a C=C bond. The oxidation may thus introduce a hydroxy, aldehyde, ketone or epoxide group. Alternatively the oxidation may cause the further oxidation of an oxygen containing group, such as converting a hydroxy group into an aldehyde or ketone group. 1, 2 or more carbon atoms may be attacked in the same substrate molecule.

The oxidation typically gives rise to 1, 2 or more oxidation products. These different products may result from different carbon atoms being attacked and/or from different degrees of oxidation occurring at a given carbon atom.

The oxidation may occur on either a ring carbon atom or a substituent carbon atom or both. At least the initial oxidation will involve attack of a C-H bond which may be activated or non-activated or attack at a carbon-carbon double bond (typically giving an epoxide). Generally an activated C-H bond is where the carbon atom is in a benzylic or allyl position. Aromatic rings and olefinic double bonds activate C-H bonds to attack by stabilising the radical intermediate or any build-up of charge generated during the reaction pathway. The

carbon of the C-H bond may be a primary, secondary or tertiary carbon.

The oxidation typically preserves stereoisomerism. Thus when the substrate consists of a single stereoisomer the product typically consists of a single corresponding stereoisomer, or can contain a preponderance of the corresponding stereoisomer.

The enzyme used in the process is generally a P450 enzyme, typically of eukaryotic or prokaryotic origin. The enzyme is generally of bacterial, fungal, yeast, plant or animal origin, and thus may be from a bacterium of the genus Pseudomonas. The enzyme is typically a monooxygenase. The non-mutant form of the enzyme may or may not be able to oxidize terpenes and/or cycloalkenes.

The mutations discussed herein are generally introduced into the enzyme by using methods known in the art, such as site directed mutagenesis of the enzyme, PCR and gene shuffling methods or by the use of multiple mutagenic oligonucleotides in cycles of site-directed mutagenesis. Thus the mutations may be introduced in a directed or random manner. The mutagenesis method thus produces one or more polynucleotides encoding one or more different mutants. Typically a library of mutant oligonucleotides is produced which can be used to produce a library of mutant enzymes.

An amino acid 'in the active site' is one which lines or defines the site in which the substrate is bound during catalysis or one which lines or defines a site through which the substrate must pass before reaching the catalytic site. Therefore such an amino acid typically interacts with the substrate during entry to the catalytic site or during catalysis. Such an interaction typically occurs through an electrostatic interaction (between charged or polar groups), hydrophobic interaction, hydrogen bonding or van der Waals forces.

The amino acids in the active site can be identified by routine methods to those skilled in the art. These methods include labelling studies in which the enzyme is allowed to bind a substrate which modifies ('labels') amino acids which contact the substrate. Alternatively the crystal structure of the enzyme with bound substrate can be obtained in order to deduce the amino acids in the active site.

The enzyme may have 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 to 10, 10 to 20 or more other mutations, such as substitutions, insertions or deletions. The other mutations may be in the active site or outside the active site. Typically the mutations are in the 'second sphere' residues which affect or contact the position or orientation of one or more of the amino acids in the active site. The insertion is typically at the N and/or C terminal and thus the enzyme may be part of a fusion protein. The deletion typically comprises the deletion of amino acids which are not involved in catalysis, such as those outside the active site (thus the enzyme is a mutated fragment of a naturally occurring enzyme). The enzyme may thus comprise only those amino acids which are required for oxidation activity.

The other mutation in the active site typically alters the position and/or conformation of the substrate when it is bound in the active site. The mutation may make the site on the substrate which is to be oxidized more accessible to the haem group. Thus the mutation may be a substitution to an amino acid which has a smaller or larger, or more or less polar, side chain.

The other mutations typically increase the stability of the protein, or make it easier to purify the protein. They typically prevent the dimerisation of the protein, typically by removing cysteine residues from the protein (e.g. by substitution of cysteine at position 334

of $P450_{cam}$, or at an equivalent position in a homologue, preferably to alanine). They typically allow the protein to be prepared in soluble form, for example by the introduction of deletions or a poly-histidine tag, or by mutation of the N-terminal membrane anchoring sequence. The mutations typically inhibit protein oligomerisation, such as oligomerisation arising from contacts between hydrophobic patches on protein surfaces.

Thus the mutant enzyme is typically at least 70% homologous to a naturally occurring haem-containing enzyme on the basis of amino acid identity.

Any of the homologous proteins (i.e. described as being homologous to another protein) mentioned herein are typically at least 70% homologous to the relevant protein or at least 80 or 90% and more preferably at least 95%, 97% or 99% homologous thereto over at least 20, preferably at least 30, for instance at least 40, 60 or 100 or more contiguous amino acids. The contiguous amino acids may include the active site. This homology may alternatively be measured not over contiguous amino acids but over only the amino acids in the active site.

Homology can be measured using known methods. For example the UWGCG Package provides the BESTFIT program which can be used to calculate homology (for example used on its default settings) (Devereux *et al* (1984) *Nucleic Acids Research* **12**, p387-395). The PILEUP and BLAST algorithms can be used to calculate homology or line up sequences (typically on their default settings), for example as described in Altschul S. F. (1993) J Mol Evol 36:290-300; Altschul, S, F *et al* (1990) J Mol Biol 215:403-10.

Software for performing BLAST analyses is publicly available through the National Center for Biotechnology Information (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/). This algorithm involves first identifying high scoring

sequence pair (HSPs) by identifying short words of length W in the query sequence that either match or satisfy some positive-valued threshold score T when aligned with a word of the same length in a database sequence. T is referred to as the neighbourhood word score threshold (Altschul *et al*, supra). These initial neighbourhood word hits act as seeds for initiating searches to find HSPs containing them. The word hits are extended in both directions along each sequence for as far as the cumulative alignment score can be increased. Extensions for the word hits in each direction are halted when: the cumulative alignment score falls off by the quantity X from its maximum achieved value; the cumulative score goes to zero or below, due to the accumulation of one or more negative-scoring residue alignments; or the end of either sequence is reached. The BLAST algorithm parameters W, T and X determine the sensitivity and speed of the alignment. The BLAST program uses as defaults a word length (W) of 11, the BLOSUM62 scoring matrix (see Henikoff and Henikoff (1992) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* USA 89: 10915-10919) alignments (B) of 50, expectation (E) of 10, M=5, N=4, and a comparison of both strands.

The BLAST algorithm performs a statistical analysis of the similarity between two sequences; see e.g., Karlin and Altschul (1993) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* USA 90: 5873-5787. One measure of similarity provided by the BLAST algorithm is the smallest sum probability (P(N)), which provides an indication of the probability by which a match between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences would occur by chance. For example, a sequence is considered similar to another sequence if the smallest sum probability in comparison of the first sequence to the second sequence is less than about 1, preferably less than about 0.1, more preferably less than about 0.01, and most preferably less than about 0.001.

Typically the homologous protein differs from the relevant protein by at least 1, 2, 5 or 10 mutations (substitutions, insertions or deletions) when compared to all of the protein or over any of the lengths of contiguous amino acids mentioned above.

The enzyme used in the process is preferably a mutant of $P450_{cam}$ (such as mutant of the sequence shown in table 7) or a mutant of a naturally occurring homologue of $P450_{cam}$, typically of $P450_{BM-3}$ from *Bacillus megaterium* (such as a mutant of the sequence shown in table 8), $P450_{terp}$ from *Pseudomonas sp, and* $P450_{eryF}$ from *Saccharopollyspora erythraea,* and also P450 105 D1 (CYP105) from *Streptomyces griseus* strains. Note that the amino acid numbering shown in table 8 for $P450_{BM-3}$ does not correspond to the numbering used in the description to denote mutations in this enzyme. The sequence shown in table 8 contains an additional amino acid at the N terminal. This is normally cleaved in vivo. Therefore each amino acid number shown in the table is always one more than the number used in the conventional numbering (as used in the description).

The naturally occurring homologue of $P450_{cam}$ (e.g. of $P450_{BM-3}$) may have substantially the same activity as $P450_{cam}$ or $P450_{BM-3}$. The homologue may be a species homologue or an allelic variant of $P450_{cam}$ from Pseudomonas putida or of $P450_{BM-3}$. The amino acids in the active site of the homologue may be the same as in the active site of $P450_{cam}$ or of $P450_{BM-3}$. Typically the amino acid at the equivalent position to 96 in $P450_{cam}$ is a tyrosine in the homologue.

The mutant of $P450_{cam}$ or of a homologue of $P450_{cam}$ is typically one in which amino acid 96, or the equivalent amino acid in a homologue, has been changed to an amino acid with a less polar side chain. In the case where the homologue is $P450_{BM-3}$ the mutant typically has a

substitution (to a less polar amino acid) at 47 and/or 51 and/or 42 and/or 75 and/or 354 and/or 264 and/or 263 and/or 181 and typically does not have a mutation at the equivalent site to 96 of $P450_{cam}$ (preferred mutants of $P450_{BM-3}$ have at least mutations at 47 and 51, or at the equivalent sites in homologues).

Thus typically the substitution is to an amino acid which is above the original amino acid in Table 3, such as the preferred mutations shown in Table 4 and Table 5.

The 'equivalent' side chain in the homologue is one at the homologous position. This can be deduced by lining up the $P450_{cam}$ or $P450_{BM-3}$ sequence and the sequence of the homologue based on the homology between the two sequences. The PILEUP and BLAST algorithms can be used to line up the sequences. The equivalent amino acid will generally be in a similar place in the active site of the homologue as any of the specific amino acids discussed herein, such as amino acid 96 in $P450_{cam}$.

The discussion below provides examples of the positions at which substitutions may be made in $P450_{cam}$ and $P450_{BM-3}$. The same substitutions may be made at equivalent positions in the homologues. Standard nomenclature is used to denote the mutations. The letter of the amino acid present in the natural form is followed by the position, followed by the amino acid in the mutant (these positions can be correlated to the numbering shown in tables 7 and 8 with the proviso discussed above with regard to table 8 amino acid numbering). To denote multiple mutations in the same protein each mutation is listed separated by hyphens. The mutations discussed below using this nomenclature specify the natural amino acid in $P450_{cam}$ or $P450_{BM-3}$ but it is to be understood that the (same) mutation could be made to a homologue which has a different amino acid at the equivalent position.

An additional mutation is typically an amino acid

substitution at amino acid 87, 98, 101, 185, 244, 247, 248, 296, 395, 396 of $P450_{cam}$ (or a combination of these, for example as shown in table 4).

The following combinations of substitutions are preferred for $P450_{cam}$:

(i) Substitution at position 87 to amino acids of different side-chain volume, such as substitutions (typically of F) to A, L, I and W, combined with substitutions at position 96 to amino acids of different side-chain volume such as (typically Y to) A, L, F, and W. These combinations alter the space available in the upper part of the substrate pocket compared to the wild-type enzyme, for example, from Y96W-F87W (little space) to Y96A-F87A (more space), as well as the location of the space, for example from one side in Y96F-F87A to the other in Y96A-F87W.

(ii) Substitution at position 96 to F combined with substitutions at positions 185 and 395. Both T185 and I395 are at the upper part of the substrate pocket, and substitution with A creates more space while substitution with F will reduce the space available and push the substrate close to the haem.

(iii) Substitutions at position 96 to A, L, F, and W combined with substitutions at residues closer to the haem including at 101, 244, 247, 295, 296 and 396 to A, L, F, or W. These combinations will create or reduce space in the region of the different side-chains to offer different binding orientations to substrates of different sizes. For example, the combinations Y96W-L244A and Y96L-V247W will offer very different substrate pockets for the binding of R-limonene.

(iv) Triple substitutions at combinations of positions 87, 96, 244, 247, 295, 296, 395 and 396 with combinations of A, L, F, and W. The aim is to vary the size and shape of the hydrophobic substrate binding pocket. For

example, the Y96A-F87A-L244A combination creates more space compared to the Y96F-F87W-V396L combination, thus allowing larger terpenes to bind to the former while restricting the available binding orientations of smaller terpenes in the latter. The combinations Y96F-F87W-V247L and Y96F-F87W-V295I have comparable substrate pocket volumes, but the locations of the space available for substrate binding are very different. The combination Y96F-F87L-V247A has a slightly larger side-chain volume at the 96 position than the combination Y96L-F87L-V247A, but the L side-chain at the 96 position is much more flexible and the substrate binding orientations will be different for the two triple mutants.

(v) The mutants with four or five substitutions were designed with similar principles of manipulating the substrate volume, the different flexibility of various side-chains, and the location of the space available in the substrate pocket for terpene binding so as to effect changes in selectivity of substrate oxidation.

The invention also provides the mutant of $P450_{cam}$ or a mutant of a homologue of $P450_{cam}$ (such as $P450_{BM-3}$) as discussed above, excluding mutants of $P450_{cam}$ which only have the mutations:
F87A-Y96G-F193A, F87A-Y96G-F193A-C334A or T101M-T185F-V247M.

The mutant enzyme may be in a substantially isolated form and/or a substantially purified form, in which case it will generally comprise (e.g. about or at least) 90%, such as (e.g. about or at least) 95%, 98% or 99% of the protein in the preparation.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide which comprises a sequence which encodes the mutant enzyme of the invention. The polynucleotide is typically DNA or RNA, and may be single or double stranded. The polynucleotide may be able to hybridise with a

polynucleotide encoding the naturally occurring form of any mutant discussed herein (each the polynucleotide shown in table 7 or 8). It typically hybridises with the relevant polynucleotide at a level significantly above background. The signal level generated by the interaction is typically at least 10 fold, preferably at least 100 fold, as intense as 'background' hybridisation. The intensity of interaction may be measured, for example, by radiolabelling the probe, e.g. with ^{32}P. Selective hybridisation is typically achieved using conditions of medium to high stringency (for example 0.03M sodium chloride and 0.03M sodium citrate at from about 50°C to about 60°C).

Polynucleotides of the invention can be incorporated into a recombinant replicable vector. The vector may be used to replicate the nucleic acid in a compatible host cell. Thus one method of making polynucleotides of the invention comprises introducing a polynucleotide of the invention into a replicable vector, introducing the vector into a compatible host cell, and growing the host cell under conditions which bring about replication of the vector. The vector may be recovered from the host cell. Suitable host cells are described below in connection with expression vectors.

Preferably, a polynucleotide of the invention in a vector is operably linked to a control sequence which is capable of providing for the expression of the coding sequence by the host cell, i.e. the vector is an expression vector.

The term "operably linked" refers to a juxtaposition wherein the components described are in a relationship permitting them to function in their intended manner. A control sequence "operably linked" to a coding sequence is ligated in such a way that expression of the coding sequence is achieved under

conditions compatible with the control sequences.

Such vectors may be transformed into a suitable host cell to provide for expression of the mutant enzyme.

The vectors may be, for example, plasmid, virus or phage vectors provided with an origin of replication, optionally a promoter for the expression of the said polynucleotide and optionally a regulator of the promoter. The vectors may contain one or more selectable marker genes, for example an ampicillin resistance gene in the case of a bacterial plasmid or a neomycin resistance gene for a mammalian vector. Vectors may be used *in vitro*, for example for the production of RNA or used to transfect or transform a host cell.

Promoters and other expression regulation signals may be selected to be compatible with the host cell for which the expression vector is designed. For example, *E.Coli* promoters include *lac, tac, trc, trp* and T7 promoters, and yeast promoters include *S. cerevisiae* GAL4 and ADH promoters, *S. pombe* nmt1 and adh promoters. Mammalian promoters include the metallothionein promoter which can be induced in response to heavy metals such as cadmium. The expression vectors are possible for use in insect or mammalian cells. For use in insect cells, strong baculovirus promoters such as the polyhedrin promoter are preferred. For expression in mammalian cells, strong viral promoters such as the SV40 large T antigen promoter, a CMV promoter or an adenovirus promoter may also be used. All these promoters are readily available in the art.

Expression vectors of the invention are typically introduced into host cells using conventional techniques including calcium phosphate precipitation, DEAE-dextran transfection, or electroporation.

The expression vector may contain a selectable marker and/or such a selectable marker may be co-

transfected with the expression vector and stable transfected cells may be selected.

Suitable cells include cells in which the abovementioned vectors may be expressed. Such cells may be prokaryotic or eukaryotic. These include microbial cells typically bacteria such as *E. coli*, preferably the strains $DH_{5\alpha}$, JM109, NM522 and BL21DE3 or Pseudomonas, typically putida, mammalian cells such as CHO cells, COS7 cells or HeLa cells, insect cells or yeast such as *Saccharomyces*. Baculovirus or vaccinia expression systems may be used.

Cell culture can take place under standard conditions. Generally the cells are cultured in the presence of assimible carbon and nitrogen sources. Commercially available culture media for cell culture are widely available and can be used in accordance with manufacturers instructions.

Typically the process of the invention is carried out in vitro, such as in a cell free system. The process may be carried out in vivo in a cell.

Typically, in addition to the enzyme (a)and the substrate the process of the invention is carried out in the presence of an electron transfer reductase (b), an electron transfer redoxin (c), cofactor for the enzyme and an oxygen donor. In this system the flow of electrons is typically: cofactor → (b) → (c) → (a). However particular enzymes do not require the presence of an electron reductase and electron transfer redoxin, such as $P450_{BM-3}$. Although the following discussion is particularly directed to enzymes which do require a reductase or redoxin, it is applicable to enzymes which do not require these (for example the various concentrations, conditions and rates are suitable for these enzymes).

For enzymes which do require a reductase and

redoxin (b) is generally an electron transfer reductase which is able to mediate the transfer of electrons from the cofactor to (c), such as a naturally occurring reductase or a protein which has homology with a naturally occurring reductase, such as at least 70% homology; or a fragment of the reductase or homologue. Thus (b) may be derived from any of the organisms listed above from which the haem-containing enzyme may be derived. (b) is typically a flavin dependent reductase, such as putidaredoxin reductase.

(c) is generally an electron transfer redoxin which is able to mediate the transfer of electrons from the cofactor to (a) via (b). (c) is typically a naturally occurring electron transfer redoxin or a protein which has homology with a naturally occurring electron transfer redoxin, such as at least 70% homology; or a fragment of the redoxin or homologue. Thus (c) may be derived from any of the organisms listed above from which the haem-containing enzyme may be derived. (c) is typically a two-iron/two sulphur redoxin, such as putidaredoxin.

The cofactor is any compound capable of donating an electron to (b), such as NADH. The oxygen donor is any compound capable of donating oxygen to (a), such as dioxygen.

In the process the concentration of (a), (b) or (c) is typically from 10^{-8} to 10^{-2}M, preferably from 10^{-6} to 10^{-4}M. Typically the ratio of concentrations of (a): (b) and/or (a): (c) is from 0.1:01 to 1:10, preferably from 1:0.5 to 1:2, or from 1:0.8 to 1:1.2. Generally the process is carried out at a temperature and/or pH at which the enzyme is functional, such as when the enzyme has at least 20%, 50%, 80% or more of peak activity. Typically the pH is from 3 to 11, such as 5 to 9 or 6 to 8, preferably 7 to 7.8 or 7.4. Typically the temperature is 15 to 90°C, such as 25 to 75°C or 30 to 60°C. In one

following:

H_2N-$P450_{cam}$-TDGTSST-putidaredoxin reductase-TDGASSS-putidaredoxin-COOH,

H_2N-$P450_{cam}$-TDGTRPGPGPGPGPSST-putidaredoxin reductase-TDGASSS-putidaredoxin-COOH,

H_2N-$P450_{cam}$-TDGTRPGPGPGPGPGPGPSST-putidaredoxin reductase-TDGASSS-putidaredoxin-COOH,

H_2N-putidaredoxin reductases-TDGASSS-putidaredoxin-PLEL-$P450_{cam}$-COOH.

However it is understood that the excluded *E.Coli* DH5α cells can be used to produce the libraries discussed below.

A preferred cell (second type) is a cell which expresses:

(a) (i) $P450_{BM-3}$, or a fragment thereof; or

(ii) a naturally occurring homologue of $P450_{BM-3}$ or a fragment thereof; or

(iii) a mutant $P450_{BM-3}$, or a mutant homologue of thereof.

The cell provided by the invention is typically a cell from the species mentioned above in which the nucleotide of the invention can be expressed. The cell may be a mutator cell. Such a cell is generally deficient in one or more of the primary DNA repair pathways (such as *E.Coli* pathways mutS, mutD or mutT, or their equivalents in another organism), and thus has a high mutation rate. Simply culturing such cell leads to the DNA encoding (a) to become mutated. The cell may be of *E.Coli* XL1 Red mutator strain.

The cell of the invention may be in a substantially isolated form and/or substantially purified form, in which case it will generally comprise (e.g. at least or about) 90%, such as (e.g. at least or about) 95%, 98% or 99% of the cells or the mass (normally measured in terms of dry mass) of the preparation.

embodiment the process is carried out in the presence of a substance able to remove hydrogen peroxide by-product (e.g. a catalase).

Alternatively the process of the invention could be carried out in the presence of the enzyme, substrate and an oxygen atom donor, such as hydrogen peroxide or t-butylhydroperoxide. Thus, the process could be carried out using the peroxide shunt.

Typically in the process at least 20 turnovers/min occur, such as at least 50, 100, 200, 300, 500 or more turnovers (turnover is measured as nanomoles of product formed per nanomole of enzyme).

The invention also provides several types of cells. The first type expresses :

an enzyme which can be used in the process which in its naturally occurring form has an electron transfer reductase domain; or expresses

(a) the mutant haem-containing enzyme which is used in the process of the invention;

(b) an electron transfer reductase; and

(c) an electron transfer redoxin.

The second type of cell expresses:

(a) (i) $P450_{cam}$ or a fragment thereof; or

(ii) a naturally occurring homologue of $P450_{cam}$ or a fragment thereof; or

(iii) a mutant of $P450_{cam}$; or

(iii) a polypeptide which has at least 70% amino acid homology with (i) or (ii) and optionally has any of the combination of mutations discussed herein; and

(b) an electron transfer reductase; and

(c) an electron transfer redoxin:

excluding an *E.Coli* DH5α cell in which the only mutants of $P450_{cam}$ which are expressed are amongst the

The cell may be one which does not naturally express (a), (b) or (c). The cell be one in which (a), (b) or (c) are expressed at a higher level than in the naturally occurring cell. (a) may originate from the same organism as (b) or (c).

In the cell (a), (b) and (c) may be expressed from the same vector, or may be expressed from different vectors. They may be expressed as three different polypeptides. Alternatively they may be expressed in the form of fusion proteins. Typically components (a), (b) and (c) are all present in the same fusion protein. Alternatively only two of the components, preferably (b) and (c), may be present in the fusion protein. Typically the components are contiguous in the fusion protein and there is no linker peptide present.

Alternatively a linker may be present between the components. The linker generally comprises amino acids that do not have bulky side chains and therefore do not obstruct the folding of the protein subunits. Preferably the amino acids in the linker are uncharged. Preferred amino acids in the linker are glycine, serine, alanine or threonine. In one embodiment the linker comprises the sequence N-Thr-Asp-Gly-Gly-Ser-Ser-Ser-C. The linker is typically from at least 5 amino acids long, such as at least 10, 30 or 50 or more amino acids long.

The first type of cell may be obtained by transforming or transfecting a host cell with a polynucleotide or vector of the invention.

The mutant enzyme of the invention may be prepared by a process comprising cultivating the first type of cell under conditions to provide for expression of the said mutant enzyme, and optionally recovering the expressed mutant enzyme.

The process of the invention may be carried out in the first type of cell of the invention or in the second

type of cell if it is able to oxidize the substrate, or a medium containing it. Generally such a process comprises providing the substrate in the cell, allowing the substrate to be oxidized in the process of the invention, and optionally obtaining the oxidation product therefrom, e.g. by extraction. The substrate is typically provided in the cell by adding the substrate to the outside of the cell and allowing it to enter the cell. Alternatively the substrate could be synthesized in the cell from a precursor.

The invention also provides a process for making a library of mutants of $P450_{cam}$ or mutants of a homologue of $P450_{cam}$ comprising contacting the second type of cell with a mutagen and/or when the cell is a mutator cell culturing the cell in conditions in which mutants are produced. The mutagen may be contacted with the cell prior to or during culturing of the cell. Thus the mutagen may be present during replication of the cell or replication of the genome of the cell.

The mutagen generally causes random mutations in the polynucleotide sequence which encodes (a). The mutagen is typically a chemical mutagen, such as nitrosomethyguanidine, methyl- or ethylmethane sulphonic acid, nitrite, hydroxylamine, DNA base analogues, and acridine dyes, such as proflavin. It is typically electromagnetic radiation, such as ultra-violet radiation at 260 nm (absorption maximum of DNA) and X-rays. It is typically ionising radiation.

Typically the library will be in the form of cells which are derived from cells of the invention by mutagenesis and which cells comprise the mutant enzymes. Generally each cell will express only one particular mutant enzyme. The library typically comprises at least 500 mutants, such as at least 1,000 or 5,000 mutants, preferably at least 10,000 different mutants.

The library typically comprises a random population of mutants. The library may undergo one or more rounds of selection whilst being produced and therefore may not comprise a random population. Between rounds of selection the cells in the library may be allowed to replicate, and they may also be contacted with a mutagen.

A mutant can be selected from the library based on a particular property of the mutant. The property may comprise one or more of the following characteristics:

(i) the ability to oxidize a particular substrate; optionally to a particular oxidation product or to a product with a particular activity.

(ii) the ability to carry out the oxidation of substrate at an increased rate,

(iii) a reduced oxidation activity towards a particular substrate,

(iv) a reduction in the production of a particular substrate.

Typically the activity of the product in (i) is blocking the action of an agent which is lethal to the cells of the library. This can be selected by growing the library in the presence of the agent. The agent is typically expressed within the cells of the library.

The activity may be the binding of the product to a particular substance, such a protein. The substance is typically present in the cell of the library, and/or is typically a disease-causing or therapeutic target. An indicator which binds the substance is typically used to detect binding of the product to the substance. In one embodiment the indicator is able to bind the substance and has a property which changes upon binding, e.g. a colour change. Product which displaces the indicator from the substance can thus be detected by measuring changed in the property.

The invention also provides a method of making a

library of oxidation products comprising providing a substrate to the library of mutant enzymes and allowing oxidation of the substrate.

Products produced in the process of the invention, or identified, selected, made or designed using the library could be used in therapy or diagnosis. Thus the invention provides a method of treating a host suffering from a disease, which method comprises administering to the host a therapeutically effective amount of the product. The condition of a patient suffering from the disease and in need of the product can therefore be improved by administration of the product. The product can also be given as a prophylactic, typically to a host which is at risk from or susceptible to the disease.

The invention provides the product for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy. The invention also provides the product for use in a diagnostic method practiced on the human or animal body. The invention also provides use of the product in the manufacture of a medicament to treat a disease.

The formulation of the product for use in preventing or treating infection by an organism will depend upon factors such as the nature of the product identified, whether a pharmaceutical or veterinary use is intended, etc. In order to be administered to a patient, the compound will be provided in the form of a pharmaceutical composition containing the product and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent. Suitable carriers and diluents include isotonic saline solutions, for example phosphate-buffered saline. Typical oral dosage compositions include tablets, capsules, liquid solutions and liquid suspensions. For example it may be formulated for parenteral, intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, transdermal or oral administration.

The dose of product may be determined according to

various parameters, especially according to the substance used; the age, weight and condition of the patient to be treated; the route of administration; and the required regimen. A physician will be able to determine the required route of administration and dosage for any particular patient. A suitable dose may however be from 0.1 to 100 mg/kg body weight such as 1 to 40 mg/kg body weight, for example, to be taken from 1 to 3 times daily.

The invention is illustrated by the accompanying drawings which show the gas chromatography results for various oxidation reactions. In the drawings unless stated otherwise the y-axis shows mVolts and the x-axis shows Time (in minutes).

In the drawings:

Figure 1 shows the oxidation of camphor by the C334A mutant of $P450_{cam}$ (expressed from plasmid SGB++). Lines A, B, C, D and E represent camphor turnover at 2, 10, 20, 40 and 100 minutes. The 5.28 peaks is camphor, 11.82 is 5-exo-hydroxycamphor, 7.45 is 5-ketocamphor and the 16.07 peak is the internal standard.

Figure 2 shows R- and S- limonene with wild type $P450_{BM-3}$.

Figure 3 shows NADH consumption by wild type and mutant $P450_{BM-3}$.

Figure 4 shows the whole cell E. coli oxidation of α-pinene by the Y96F-F87W-V247L mutant expressed by plasmid pCWSGB+.

The invention is also illustrated by the Examples:

Example 1

Expression of mutants for *in vitro* work.

The $P450_{cam}$ enzymes were expressed using the vector pRH1091 (Baldwin, J.E., Blackburn, J.M., Heath, R.J., and Sutherland, J.D. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Letts., 1992*, **2**, 663-668.) which utilised the *trc* promoter (a fusion of the *trp* and *lac* promoters). This vector incorporates a strong

ribosome binding site (RBS) and the gene to be expressed is cloned using an *Nde* I site on the 5' end of the gene. We used *Hind* III as the cloning site at the 3' end of the *camC* gene. The procedure for protein expression is as follows: Cells are grown at 30°C until the OD_{600nm} reaches 1.0 - 1.2, the temperature is increased to 37°C and camphor added as a 1 M stock in ethanol to a final concentration of 1 mM. The culture is allowed to incubate at 37°C for another 6 hours. The $P450_{cam}$ protein is expressed to high levels in the cytoplasm and the cells take on a red to orange-red colour.

We have also prepared a variant of pRH1091 (by PCR) which has a extra *Xba* I site between the RBS and the *Nde* I site. This is important because *Nde* I is not unique in M13, and this restriction site is also present in the reductase gene as well as the backbone of the pGLW11 vector used for the *in vivo* system. *Xba* I is unique in the polylinker region of M13, but absent in the genes of all three proteins in the $P450_{cam}$ system and in the expression vectors. It therefore allows the *camC* gene to be moved between the mutagenic and expression vectors.

The $P450_{BM-3}$ enzyme from *Bacillus megaterium* was expressed using either the pGLW11 or pCW vectors. The recombinant plasmid with the $P450_{BM-3}$ gene inserted into either of these vectors were transformed into *E. coli* strain DH5α and grown under ampicillin selection. A single colony was then grown at 30°C in LB media supplemented with ampicillin until the OD at 600 nm reached ca. 1, and protein expression was induced by adding IPTG from a 1 M stock to a final concentration of 1mM. After 6-8 h, cells were harvested by centrifugation and the expression levels were high, as indicated by an orange-red coloration of the cells.

How the mutants were made.

Oligonucleotide-directed site-specific mutagenesis was carried out by the Kunkel method (Kunkel, T. A. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 1985*, **82**, 488-492) using the Bio-Rad Mutagen kit and by PCR using the QuikChange kit from Stratagene. The recommended procedure for the Kunkel method is summarised as follows. An M13 mp19 subclone of the *camC* gene encoding $P450_{cam}$ was propagated in the *E. coli* strain CJ236. This strain has the *dut*⁻ung⁻ phenotype and thus will tolerate the inclusion of uracil in place of thymine in DNA molecules. After three cycles of infection, uracil-containing single stranded (USS) M13 DNA was readily isolated by phenol extraction of mature M13 phage particles excreted into the growth medium. The mutagenic oligonucloetide (or oligonucleotides) were phosphorylated with T4 polynucleotide kinase and then annealed to the USS template. The four nucleotides, DNA polymerase, DNA ligase, ATP and other chemical components were added and the second strand was synthesised *in vitro*. The double stranded form thus obtained was transformed into the *dut+ ung+ E. coli* strain MV1190, which should degrade the uracil-containing template strand and propagate the mutant strand synthesised *in vitro*. Plaques were picked and phages of possible mutants grown in *E. coli* strains MV1190 or TG1. The single-stranded DNA from these were sequenced to determine whether the mutagenesis reaction was successful. The mutagenic efficiency was 50 - 80%. The mutant *camC* gene is excised from the M13 subclone by restriction digest with *Nde* I and *Hin*d III, and the fragment of appropriate size is ligated to the backbone of the expression vector prepared by a similar *Nde* I/*Hin*d III digest.

The QuikChange kit relies on the property of the *Dpn* I restriction enzyme which selectively cleaves methylated

DNA. The mutation is introduced by PCT using double stranded plasmid DNA, and hence no single stranded template preparations are necessary. The PCR reaction is carried out with two oligonucleotides, one of which binds to the coding strand and the other to the sense strand. Each oligonucleotide contains a short stretch of polynucleotide complementary to either side of the mutation site. After *in vitro* synthesis by PCR using non-methylated dNTP's, plasmid DNA with overlapping nicks in each strand were digested with *Dpn* I to remove the starting template selectively - plasmid DNA isolated from most *E. coli* strains contain methylated bases but the newly synthesised DNA do not have methylated bases. After the digest the DNA is transformed into supercompetent *E. coli* XL1 Blue cells and propagated. The plasmid DNA from potential mutants which grow on agar plates under antibiotic selection were isolated and sequenced to confirm mutagenesis. The cells can then be used for protein expression once the entire sequence of the new mutant was confirmed to ensure that there were no spurious mutations.

Multiple mutants were prepared either by further mutagenesis, also by the Kunkel method, or where the location of the sites in the sequence permits, simple cloning steps. There are two unique restriction sites within the *camC* gene which are absent from the expression vector. One is *Sph* I which spans residues 121 - 123, and the other is *Sal* I which spans residues 338 and 339. Therefore, all mutations at, for example, residues 87, 96, 98, and 101 are readily combined with mutations at higher number residues by ligating appropriate fragments from restriction digests of mutant *camC* genes with *Nde* I/*Sph* I and *Sph* I/*Hin*d III and the backbone fragment from a *Nde* I/*Sph* I digest of the expression vector. Mutations

at, for example, 395 and 396 can be similarly incorporated by digests in which *Sph* I is replaced with *Sal* I.

The rationale for introducing the unique *Xba* I site is now clear: many mutants with multiple mutations were prepared by the cloning procedure above. Without the *Xba* I site it would be impossible to clone the gene for these multiple mutants from the expression vector back into M13 for further rounds of mutagenesis. Of course these problems could be overcome by doing mutagenesis by PCR, for example.

Example 2

Substrate oxidation protocol: *in vitro* reactions

Component	Final concentration
$P450_{cam}$ enzyme	1 µM
Putidaredoxin	10 µM
Putidaredoxin reductase	1 µM
Bovine liver catalase	20 µg/ml
KCl	200 mM
Substrate	Typically 1 mM
NADH	250 - 400 µM

* 50 mM Tris-HCl buffer pH 7.4 is added to make up the volume.

* Temperature controlled at 30°C, optional.

* The NADH turnover rate could be determined by monitoring the absorbance at 340 nm with time.

* Catalase does not catalyse the substrate oxidation reactions but rather it is present to remove any hydrogen peroxide by-product which could otherwise denature the $P450_{cam}$.

The method can be increased in scale to, for example, 20 ml total incubation volume to allow purification of sufficient products by HPLC for

spectroscopic characterisation. Fresh substrate (1 mM) and NADH (1 - 2 mM) are added periodically, such as every 20 minutes in a total reaction time of, typically, 3 hours.

Example 3

The *in vivo* system

The *in vivo* systems were expressed using the vector pGLW11, a derivative of the plasmid pKK223 (Brosius, J. and Holy, A. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 1984,* 81,6929-6933). Expression is directed by the *tac* promoter and the vector incorporates a gene conferring resistance to the antibiotic ampicillin.

Two systems were constructed. The first one expressed the electron transfer proteins putidaredoxin reductase *(camA gene) and putidaredoxin (camB gene)* as a fusion protein with a seven amino acid peptide linker, and the $P450_{cam}$ enzyme *(camC gene)* was expressed by the same vector but it was not fused to the electron proteins. The second system expressed the three proteins as separate entities in the *E.Coli* host. Both systems were catalytically competent for substrate oxidation *in vivo*.

The general strategy was as follows. The genes for the three proteins were cloned using *Eco RI* and *Hind* III as flanking sites, with *Eco* RI at the 5' end. For both *in vivo* systems there are restriction sites between the genes, including between the reductase and redoxin genes in the fusion construct. These restriction sites were introduced by PCR, as detailed below. The first task, however, was to carry out a silent mutation to remove the *Hind* III site within the *camA* gene for the reductase. The AAGCTT *Hind* III recognition sequence in the *camA* gene was changed to AAGCCT, which is a silent mutation because

GCT and GCC both encode alanine. The gene was completely sequenced to ensure that there were no spurious mutations.

1. **The fusion protein system**

1.a Manipulation of the camA gene by PCR

For the *camA* gene the primer below was used at the 5' end of the gene to introduce the *Eco* RI cloning site and to change the first codon from GTG to the strong start codon ATG.

5'- GAG ATT AAG **AAT TCA** TAA ACA CAT GGG **AGT** GCG TGC CAT **ATG** AAC GCA AAC

Eco RI RBS |→*camA*

At the 3' end of *camA* the primer was designed such that 15 bases are complementary to nucleotide sequence of the last five amino acid residues of *camA*. The stop codon immediately after the GCC codon for the last amino acid was removed, and then part of a seven amino acid linker (Thr Asp Gly Gly Ser Ser Ser) which contained a *Bam* HI cloning site (GGATCC = Gly Ser) was introduced. The coding sequence was thus:

5'- GAA CTG AGT AGT GCC ACT GAC GGA **GGA TCC** TCA TCG-3'

camA → Thr Asp Gly Gly Ser

|*Bam* HI|

The primer sequence shown below is the reverse complement used for PCR:

5'- CGA TGA **GGA TCC** TCC GTC AGT GGC ACT ACT CAG TTC-3'

1.b Manipulations of the camB gene by PCR

For the camB gene the primer at the 5' end incorporated the second half of the peptide linker

between the reductase and redoxin proteins, and the restriction site *Bam* HI for joining the two amplified genes together.

5'- TCA TCG **GGA TCC** TCA TCG **ATG** TCT AAA GTA GTG TAT-3'

Gly Ser Ser Ser |→ *camB*

|*Bam* HI| Start

At the 3' end of *camB* the primer incorporates 12 nucleotides complementary to the end of *camB* followed by the stop codon TAA, a 6 nucleotide spacer before the GGAG ribosome binding site. *Xba* I and *Hind* III sites were then added to allow cloning of the *camC* gene when required. The sequence of the coding strand was therefore:

5'- CCC GAT AGG CAA TGG **TAA** TCA TCG **GGAG TCT AGA** GCA TCG **AAG CTT** TCA TCG-3'

CamB →|stop RBS *Xba* I *Hind* III

The primer shown below is the reverse complement used for PCR:

5'-CGA TGA AAG CTT CGA TGC TCT AGA CTCC CGA TGA TTA CCA TTG CCT ATC GGG -3'

1.c Preparation of the full fusion construct

The *camA* and *camB* genes were amplified by the PCR using the primers described above. The new *camA* was digested with *Eco* RI and *Bam* HI, while the new *CamB* was digested with *Bam* HI and *Hind* III. The pGLW11 expression vector was digested with *Eco* RI and *Hind* III. All three were purified by agarose gel electrophoresis and the three gel slices containing the separate fragments were excised from the gel and ligated together, and then transformed into *E.Coli* DH5α. Successful ligation of all the fragments were confirmed by a series of restriction

digestion experiments, especially the presence of the new and unique *Xba* I site. The entire sequence of the insert from the *Eco* RI site to the *Hind* III site was determined to ensure that all the sequences were correct.

The new plasmid, named $pSGB^F$, was transformed into *E.Coli* and expression of the reductase and redoxin proteins was induced by IPTG. When a purified $P450_{cam}$ enzyme was added to the cell-free extract, substrate oxidation was observed for a variety of substrates.

When the *camC* gene is cloned into the $pSGB^F$ plasmid using the *Xba* I and *Hind* III restriction sites, the new recombinant plasmid thus generated expresses the reductase and redoxin as a fusion protein and the $P450_{cam}$ enzyme as a operate entity both from the same mRNA molecule. This *in vivo* system is catalytically competent for terpene oxidation in whole cells.

2. The *in vivo* system with the protein expressed separately

2.a *The basic strategy*

The starting point of the preparation of this *in vivo* system was the recombinant plasmid used to express the *camA* gene for putidaredoxin reductase. The *camA* gene was cloned into the pGLW11 plasmid using the *Eco* RI and *Bam* HI restriction sites, with *Eco* RI being at the 5' end of the gene. Conveniently the polylinker region of the pGLW11 vector has a *Hind* III site downstream of the *Bam* HI site. The *camB* gene was therefore manipulated by PCR such that it can be cloned into pGLW11 using the *Bam* HI and *Hind* III sites. This new plasmid expresses the reductase and redoxin as separate proteins.

The *camB* gene was cloned into pUC118 by the *Bam* HI

and *Hind* III cloning sites to express putidaredoxin for our general *in vitro* substrate oxidation work. Therefore, the PCR primer at the 3' end of the *camB* gene was designed to introduce a ribosome binding site and the *Xba* I restriction site upstream of the *Hind* III site so that the *camC* gene can be inserted downstream of *camB* using the *Xba* I and *Hind* III sites. Therefore the three genes were cloned without fusion in the pGLW11 expression vector and arranged in the order 5'-*camA-camB-camC-3'*, and each gene has its own RBS to initiate protein synthesis.

2.b Manipulations of the camB gene

We used the internal and unique restriction site *Mlu* I (recognition sequence ACGCGT) within the *camB* gene as the starting point so that the PCR product has a different size from the PCR template fragment. The primers were as follows:

5'- TCA TCG **ACG CGT** CGC GAA CTG CTG-3'

where the *Mlu* I site is in bold.

The desired coding sequence at the 3' end of the *camB* gene was:

5'- CCC GAT AGG CAA TGG **TAA** GTA GGT GAA TAT CTA ATC CCC ATC

camB →|stop

TAT GCG CGA GTG **GAG TCT AGA** GTT CGA-3'

RBS *Xba* I

After the stop codon there is a 35 base spacer before the RBS which is used to initiate the synthesis of the $P450_{cam}$ enzyme. The *Xba* I cloning site is located

within the spacer between the RBS and the start codon (not in this primer) of the *camC* gene. The PCR primer used was the reverse complement of the sequence above. The PCR was carried out and the amplified fragment of the appropriate size was purified by agarose gel electrophoresis and the gel slice excised.

One extra step was necessary to complete the construction of the new plasmid. The plasmid for the fusion protein *in vivo* system was digested with *Mlu* I and *Hind* III restriction enzymes, purified by agarose gel electrophoresis, and the gel slice for the small *camB* fragment excised. The pUC118 plasmid for *camB* expression was similarly digested, and the gel slice for the backbone was excised. By ligating the two fragments together we prepared a new pUC118-based plasmid which had an *Xba* I site followed by an *Hind* III site downstream of the stop codon of *camB*. This new plasmid was digested with the *Mlu* I and *Xba* I enzymes and the backbone was ligated with the new *camB* fragment described above to generate a plasmid with the following arrangement of the key components:

..*lac* Promoter..*Bam* HI..***camB gene***..spacer..RBS..*Xba* I..*Hind* III..

2.c Preparation of the in vivo system plasmid

Once the modified *camB* with the *Xba* I and *Hind* III restriction sites and appropriate spacers were prepared, the *in vivo* system was constructed by cloning this into the pGLW11-based plasmid used to express the *camA* gene (reductase protein) using the *Bam* HI and *Hind* III sites. The new *in vivo* system vector has the following arrangement of the key components:

..*tac* Promoter..*Eco IRI*..*RBS*..***camA gene***..*spacer*..*Bam*

HI..RBS..**camB gene**..spacer..RBS..*Xba* I.. *Hind* III..

This new plasmid, named pSGB$^+$, was transformed into *E.Coli* and expression of the reductase and redoxin proteins was induced by IPTG. When a purified $P450_{cam}$ enzyme was added to the cell-free extract, substrate oxidation was observed for a variety of substrates.

When the *camC* gene is cloned into this pSGC$^+$ plasmid using the *Xba* I and *Hind* III restriction sites, the new recombinant plasmid thus generated will express the three proteins separately, each under the direction of its own RBS but from the same mRNA molecule. Thus constitutes the *in vivo* system used in the vast majority of our terpene oxidation work.

3. Introduction of an *Xba* I site into pRH1091

This is the final step to enable the *camC* gene to be cloned into the *in vivo* systems by the two cloning sites *Xba*I and *Hind* III. The *Xba* I site was added by PCR of the entire pRH1091 plasmid using two primers. The presence of these two sites will also enable cloning of the *camC* gene into M13 since both *Xba* I and *Hind* III are unique in *camC* and M13.

The primers shown below maintain the *Hind* III cloning site AAGCTT:

5'-TCA TCG **AAG CTT** GGC TGT TTT-3'

Hind III |- vector

At the other end the coding sequence desired was:

5'-ACA ATT TCA CAC **AGGA TCT AGA** C **CAT ATG** TCA TCG **AAG CTT** TCA TCG-3'

Vector -|RBS *Xba* I *Nde* I *Hind* III

This sequence maintained the *Nde* I and *Hind* III sites but the new *Xba* I site was introduced upstream of the *Nde* I site. The PCR primer used was the reverse complement of the desired sequence:

5'-CGA TGA AAG CTT CGA TGA CAT ATG GTC T AGA TCCT GTG TGA AAT TGT-3'

The PCR product was then purified by agarose gel electrophoresis, digested with *Hind* III and circularised with T4 DNA ligase. Success of the PCR method was indicated by the presence of a new and unique *Xba* I site in plasmid DNA isolated from transformants.

4. Cloning of *camC* into the *in vivo* systems

All existing *camC* mutants were cut out of pRH1091-based expression plastids with *Nde* I and *Hind* III. The new vector is similarly cut with the same restriction enzymes and the *camC* gene cloned into this plasmid with T4 DNA ligase. This DNA is transformed into *E.Coli* JM109 which then may be grown to express $P450_{cam}$.

The *camC* gene is excised from the new vector using *Xba* I and *Hind* III restriction enzymes and cloned into either the *in vivo* vector systems or M13mp19 for mutagenesis.

5. *In vivo* expression and substrate turnover

For protein expression, cells are grown in LBamp medium (tryptone 10 g/litre, yeast extract 5 g/litre, NaCl 10 g/litre, 50 µg/ml ampicillin) at 30°C until the OD_{600nm} reaches 1.0 - 1.2. IPTG (isopropyl-β-D-thiogalactopyranoside) was added to a final concentration of 1 µM (from a 1 M stock in H_2O) and the culture was incubated at 30°C overnight.

For simple screening the substrate can be added to culture and the incubation continued. However, due to impurities from the culture media the cells were generally washed twice with 0.5 vol. of buffer P, (KH_2PO_4 6.4 g, $K_2HPO_4.3H_2O$ 25.8 g, H_2O to 4 litres, pH 7.4) and resuspended in 0.25 vol. oxygen saturated buffer P containing 24 mM glucose. Substrate was added to 1 mM and the incubation continued at 30°C. The reaction was allowed to run for 24 hours with periodic additions of substrate and glucose.

The reaction was analysed by extracting 1 ml of the incubation mixture with 250 µl of ethylacetate. After centrifuging in a microcentrifuge at 13,000 *g* for 2 minutes, 2 µl of the organic extract was injected onto a 0.25 mm x 30 m DB-1 gas chromatography column in a Fisons GC 8000 series gas chromatograph. The samples were carried through the column using helium carrier gas and the compounds present were detected using a flame ionisation detector.

A variety of temperature programmes were used for different substrate to resolve turnover products.

Monoterpenes

Injector temperature	150 °C
Detector temperature	250 °C
Oven temperature	120 °C for 15 min → 200 °C at 25 °C/min, 200 °C for 1 min.

Sesquiterpenes

Injector temperature	250 °C
Detector temperature	250 °C
Oven temperature	150 °C → 230 °C at 5 °C/min, 230 °C for 1 min.

Results for particular oxidation reactions are shown

in table 6 and in the Figures.

Figure 1 shows the result of an oxidation reaction with camphor. The 5-ketocamphor arises from further oxidation of 5-exo-hydroxycamphor. As can be seen there is surprisingly little of the further oxidation occurring in the presence of camphor.

Example 4

A second *in vivo* expression system

The cluster of genes for the expression of the three proteins of the $P450_{cam}$ system, as described in Example 3, were also expressed in whole *E. coli* cells using the pCW vector. This vector utilises two *tac* promoters arranged in line to increase protein expression. It has a RBS, and contains the gene conferring resistance to the antibiotic ampicillin (Barnes, H.J. *Methods Enzymol.* 1996, 272, 3-14).

Both methods of expressing catalytically competent $P450_{cam}$ systems described in Example 3 were successful with the pCW vector. Thus the fusion system, where putidaredoxin reductase and putidaredoxin were expressed as a fusion protein with an oligopeptide linker, but the $P450_{cam}$ monooxygenase was expressed but not fused to the electron transfer proteins. The second system expressed all three proteins as separate entities in the same *E. coli* host.

1. The fusion protein system

A new plasmid was constructed by cloning the gene for the fusion of electron transfer proteins into pCW so that different $P450_{cam}$ mutants could be introduced into the system by cloning. The 5' end oligonucleotide used for the PCR amplification of the *cam A* gene introduced not only the *Eco* RI site for cloning into the pGL W11

vector but also a *Nde* I site which spans the ATG start codon of the gene (see Example 3, section 1a). In the pCW vector there is a *Nde* I site positioned downstream of the RBS for cloning of the gene to be expressed. The pGL W11 vector containing the *camA-camB* fusion gene was digested with *Nde* I and *Hin*d III, and the insert purified by agarose gel electrophoresis. The pCW vector system was also digested with these two enzymes and the linearised vector purified by the same method. The two fragments were ligated with DNA ligase to generate the new $pCWSGB_F$ plasmid based on the pCW vector and which expressed the fusion of the electron transfer proteins. The insert excised from the pGL W11-based plasmid already contained a RBS for protein expression and an *Xba* I site just upstream of the *Hin*d III site (see Example 3, section 2.c), so that the *cam C* gene encoding $P450_{cam}$ mutants can be cloned using these two sites and expressed off the RBS. Therefore genes encoding the $P450_{cam}$ mutants can be excised from the modified pRH system and cloned into the new $pCWSGB_F$ plasmid using the *Xba* I and *Hin*d III sites.

2. The three proteins expressed separately

This system was generated in exactly the same way as for the fusion system. Thus the pSGB+ plasmid was digested with the *Nde* I and *Hin*d III restriction enzymes and the insert cloned into the pCW vector. This new plasmid pCWSGB+ expressed putidaredoxin reductase and putidaredoxin as separate entities off the twin *tac* promoters of the pCW vector. The $P450_{cam}$ mutants were introduced into this vector using the *Xba* I and *Hin*d III sites.

3. In vivo expression and substrate turnover

The conditions described below were used for test purposes in shake flasks in a laboratory and were not optimised. Under proper fermenter conditions with higher expression and biomass the final yield of products will be much increased.

E. coli DH5α cells harbouring either of the catalytically competent $P450_{cam}$ systems were grown from a single colony on an agar plate in 1 L of LBamp medium at 30 °C until OD_{600nm} reached *ca.* 1. IPTG was added to 1 mM final concentration (from a 1 M stock in water) and the culture grown for a further 6 h. The final OD_{600nm} were in the range 2.0 - 2.5. Cells were harvested by centrifugation at 5000 *g* and washed once with 40 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.4. The cell pellet was resuspended in 500 ml of 40 mM phosphate buffer, pH 7.4. Glucose was added as a 2 M stock to a final concentration of 100 mM, and 1 mL of the substrate (α-pinene or R-limonene) was added to start the reaction. The mixture was shaken in an open 2 L conical flask in an orbital incubator at 200 rpm. More glucose was added every 24 h (100 mM final concentration based on a 500 mL volume, from a 2 M stock) and more substrate (1 mL) was added every 12 h. The progress of the reaction was monitored by GC and the whole cell system was active for at least 5 days at ambient temperatures and the minimum yield at the end of day 5, as assayed by extraction of the reaction medium with chloroform and analysing by GC, was 100 mg of products without accounting for volatilisation of products into the atmosphere and condensation on the flask above the liquid level. In addition, no compounds arising from further hydroxylation at another carbon atom were observed when the substrate was present.

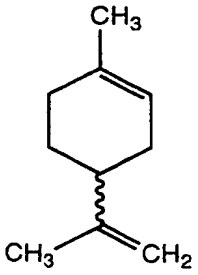
Example 5

In vitro and *in vivo* substrate oxidation by $P450_{BM-3}$

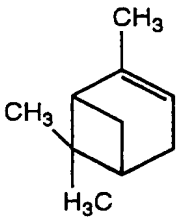
In a typical reaction *in vitro* (optional 30°C temperature control) the 1.5 mL incubation mixture contained 40 mM phosphate buffer, pH 8.0, 1 µM $P450_{BM-3}$, 50 µg/mL of catalase, and terpene substrates were added as a 1 M stock in ethanol to a final concentration of 2 mM. NADPH was added typically to 400 µM final concentration, and the rates of reaction could be monitored at 340 nm. After all the NADPH had been consumed, the mixture was extracted by vortexing with 0.5 mL of chloroform, the phases separated by centrifugation, and the organic phase could be analysed by GC using the programs described in Example 3.

Catalase does not catalyse the substrate oxidation reaction but rather it is present to remove any hydrogen by-product which could otherwise denature the enzyme. The method can be increased in scale to, for example, 20 mL total incubation volume to allow purification of sufficient produces by HPLC for spectroscopic characterisation. Fresh substrate (1 mM) and NADPH (1-2 mM) are added periodically, such as every 20 minutes in a total reaction time of, typically 3 hours.

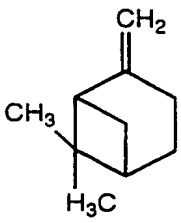
Since the $P450_{BM-3}$ enzyme is catalytically self-sufficient, i.e., both the monooxygenase and electron transfer domains are in a single polypeptide, the enzyme as expressed in *E. coli* can be used for whole cell, *in vivo* substrate oxidations. The procedure described under Example 3 for *in vivo* substrate oxidation by the $P450_{cam}$ enzyme can also be used for the $P450_{BM-3}$ enzyme.



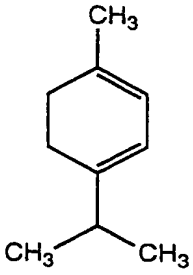
Limonene



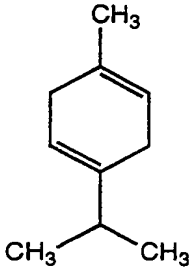
α-pinene



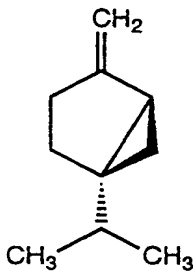
β-pinene



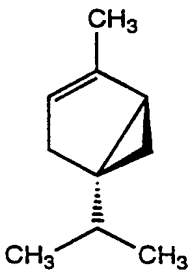
α-terpinene



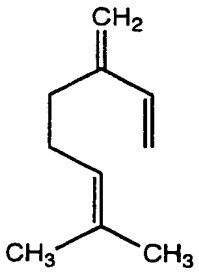
γ-terpinene



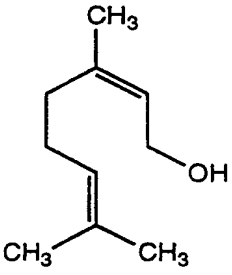
(+)-sabinene



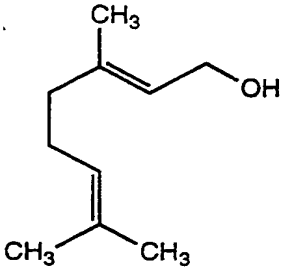
(-)-α–thujene



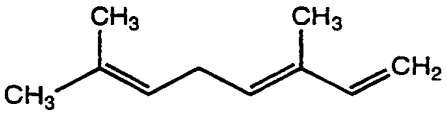
myrcene



nerol

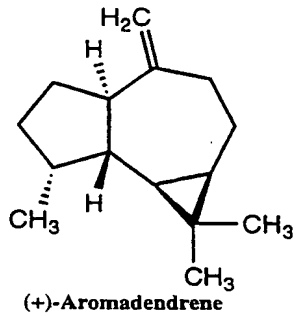


geraniol

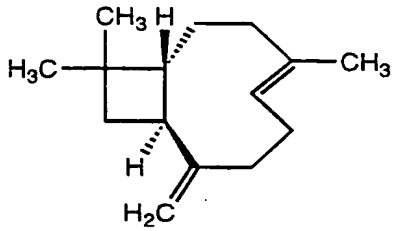


ocimene

Table 1

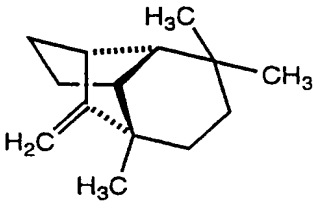


(+)-Aromadendrene

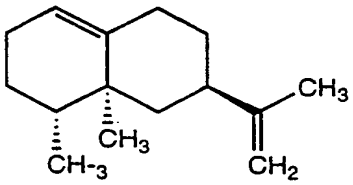


B-Caryophyllene

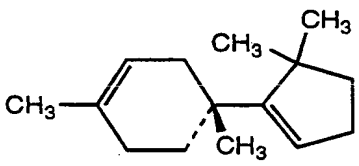
(-)-*trans*-Caryophyllene



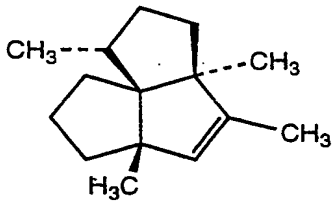
(+)-Longifolene



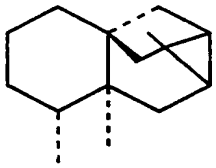
(+)-Valencene



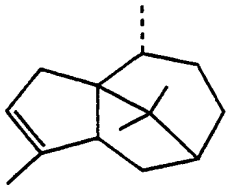
Isobazzanene



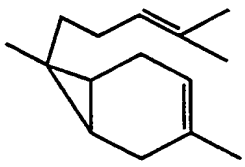
Silphinene



Ishwarane



Isopatchchoul-3-ene



Isosesquicarene

Table 2

Table 3. HYDROPATHY SCALE FOR AMINO ACID SIDE CHAINS

Side Chain	Hydropathy
Ile	4.5
Val	4.2
Leu	3.8
Phe	2.8
Cys	2.5
Met	1.9
Ala	1.8
Gly	-0.4
Thr	-0.7
Ser	-0.8
Trp	-0.9
Tyr	-1.3
Pro	-1.6
His	-3.2
Glu	-3.5
Gln	-3.5
Asp	-3.5
Asn	-3.5
Lys	-3.9
Arg	-4.5

Table 4: $P450_{cam}$ mutants

All mutants optionally contain the base mutation C334A.

Single mutants: Y96A, Y96F, Y96L, Y96W.

Double mutants:

Y96A-F87A	Y96F-F87A	Y96F-V295A	Y96L-F87A	Y96L-A296L
Y96A-F87L	Y96F-F87I	Y96F-V295L	Y96L-F87L	Y96L-A296F
Y96A-F87W	Y96F-F87L	Y96F-V295I	Y96L-F98W	Y96L-V396A
Y96A-F98W	Y96F-F87W	Y96F-A296L	Y96L-T101L	Y96L-V396L
Y96A-L244A	Y96F-F98W	Y96F-A296F	Y96L-T101F	Y96L-V396F
Y96A-V247A	Y96F-T101L	Y96F-I395F	Y96L-L244A	Y96L-V396W
Y96A-V247L	Y96F-T101F	Y96F-I395G	Y96L-L244F	
Y96A-I395F	Y96F-T185A	Y96F-V396A	Y96L-V247A	
Y96A-I395G	Y96F-T185F	Y96F-V396L	Y96L-V247L	Y96W-F87W
	Y96F-T185L	Y96F-V396F	Y96L-V247F	Y96W-F98W
	Y96F-L244A	Y96F-V396W	Y96L-V247W	Y96W-L244A
	Y96F-V247A		Y96L-G248L	Y96W-V247A
	Y96F-V247L		Y96L-V295L	Y96W-V396A
	Y96F-G248L		Y96L-V295F	

Triple Mutants:

Y96A-F87A-L244A	Y96L-V247A-V396L	Y96F-F87W-V247A
Y96A-F87A-V247A	Y96L-V247A-V396F	Y96F-F87W-V247L
Y96A-F87L-L244A	Y96L-V247A-V396W	Y96F-F87W-V247F
Y96A-F87L-V247A	Y96L-V247F-V396A	Y96F-F87W-V295L
Y96A-L244A-V247A		Y96F-F87W-A296L
	Y96F-F87A-L244A	Y96F-F87W-V396A
Y96L-F87A-L244A	Y96F-F87A-V247A	Y96F-F87W-V396L
Y96L-F87A-V247A	Y96F-F87A-V247L	Y96F-V247F-V396A
Y96L-F87L-L244A	Y96F-F87A-I395F	Y96F-L244A-V396L
Y96L-F87L-V247A	Y96F-F87A-I395G	Y96F-L244A-V396F
Y96L-V247A-I395F	Y96F-F87L-V247A	Y96F-L244A-V396W
Y96L-V247L-I395F	Y96F-F87L-V247L	Y96F-L244F-V396A
Y96L-V247L-I395G	Y96F-F87L-I395F	Y96F-V247A-V396L
Y96L-L244A-V396L	Y96F-F87W-T185A	Y96F-V247A-V396F
Y96L-L244A-V396F	Y96F-F87W-T185F	Y96F-V247A-V396W
Y96L-L244A-V396W	Y96F-F87W-T185L	
Y96L-L244F-V396A	Y96F-F87W-L244F	Y96W-F87W-F98W

Table 4 (continued)

Four mutations:

Y96A-F87A-L244A-V247A
Y96A-F87L-L244A-V247A
Y96L-F87A-L244A-V247A
Y96L-F87L-L244A-V247A

Y96F-F87W-L244A-V295L
Y96F-F87W-L244F-V396A
Y96F-F87W-L244A-A296L
Y96F-F87W-V247A-V396L
Y96F-F87W-V247A-V396F
Y96F-F87W-V247L-V295A
Y96F-F87W-V247L-V396A
Y96F-F87W-V247F-V396A
Y96F-F87W-V247A-I395F
Y96F-F87W-V247L-I395G

Five mutations:

Y96F-F87W-T185L-V247L-V295L
Y96F-F87W-T185L-V247L-V396A
Y96F-F87W-T185L-V247L-V396L

Table 5: $P450_{BM-3}$ mutants

R47L-Y51F	R47L-Y51F-F42A	R47L-Y51F-F87A	R47L-Y51F-A264V	R47L-Y51F-I263F-A264L
R47A-Y51A	R47L-Y51F-F42L	R47L-Y51F-F87W	R47L-Y51F-A264L	R47L-Y51F-I263W-A264I
R47A-Y51L	R47A-Y51L-F42L	R47L-Y51F-I263A	R47L-Y51F-A264I	
		R47L-Y51F-I263F	R47L-Y51F-M354L	
		R47L-Y51F-I263L	R47L-Y51F-M354A	
		R47L-Y51F-I263W		
	R47L-Y51F-L75A-M354L		R47L-Y51F-L181A	
	R47A-Y51L-L75A-M354A		R47L-Y51F-L181W	
	R47L-Y51F-F87W-A264L			
	R47L-Y51F-F87W-A264I			
	R47L-Y51F-F87W-A264F			

Table 6: Summary of changes in selectivity of terpene oxidation by $P450_{cam}$ mutants. Approximate proportions of only the products arising from the insertion of a single oxygen atom, i.e., alcohols and epoxides, are given.

Mutant	Products, some also indicated by their retention times (min) on a 30 m DB-1 fused silica GC column					Comments
L-Limonene	5.23-5.33 min 1,2-Oxide	6.10-6.20 min Product	6.60 - 6.70 min Isopiperitenol	7.05-7.15 min Carveol	8.15-8.25 min Product	
Wild-type	-	30%	70%	-	-	Very small quantities
F87I-Y96F	8%	5%	5%	2%	80%	
Y96F-V247L	5%	-	>85%	5%	<5%	Other small peaks observed
Y96F-T185L	5%	<2%	>90%	<2%	<2%	Other small peaks observed
F87W-Y96F-V247L	<2%	-	>95%	<2%	-	
F87L-Y96F-V247L	5%	5%	5%	2%	>80%	
α-Pinene	Pinene oxide	Verbenol	Verbenone			
Wild-type	10%	30%	10%			Remaining 50% other products
Y96F-V247A	10%	50%	20%			Remaining 20% other products
Y96F	10%	30%	15%			Many other products
F87W-Y96F-V247L	-	70%	15%			Very few other products
Valencene	Nookatol region		Nookatone	Product	Product	
	9.60-9.70 min	9.80-9.90 min	11.3-11.4 min	13.0-13.1 min	14.0-14.1 min	
Wild-type	-	-	-	-		Many small peaks
Y96F-V247A	30%	15%	10%	<10%	>30%	
Y96L-V247A	15%	20%	10%	>40%	10%	
γ-Terpinene	5.70-5.80 min	6.20-6.30 min				
Y96F	15%	85%				

Table 7: P450cam wild-type sequence

```
acg act gaa acc ata caa agc aac gcc aat ctt gcc cct ctg cca ccc   48
Thr Thr Glu Thr Ile Gln Ser Asn Ala Asn Leu Ala Pro Leu Pro Pro
1               5                  10                  15

cat gtg cca gag cac ctg gta ttc gac ttc gac atg tac aat ccg tcg   96
His Val Pro Glu His Leu Val Phe Asp Phe Asp Met Tyr Asn Pro Ser
            20                  25                  30

aat ctg tct gcc ggc gtg cag gag gcc tgg gca gtt ctg caa gaa tca   144
Asn Leu Ser Ala Gly Val Gln Glu Ala Trp Ala Val Leu Gln Glu Ser
        35                  40                  45

aac gta ccg gat ctg gtg tgg act cgc tgc aac ggc gga cac tgg atc   192
Asn Val Pro Asp Leu Val Trp Thr Arg Cys Asn Gly Gly His Trp Ile
    50                  55                  60

gcc act cgc ggc caa ctg atc cgt gag gcc tat gaa gat tac cgc cac   240
Ala Thr Arg Gly Gln Leu Ile Arg Glu Ala Tyr Glu Asp Tyr Arg His
65                  70                  75                  80

ttt tcc agc gag tgc ccg ttc atc cct cgt gaa gcc ggc gaa gcc tac   288
Phe Ser Ser Glu Cys Pro Phe Ile Pro Arg Glu Ala Gly Glu Ala Tyr
                85                  90                  95

gac ttc att ccc acc tcg atg gat ccg ccc gag cag cgc cag ttt cgt   336
Asp Phe Ile Pro Thr Ser Met Asp Pro Pro Glu Gln Arg Gln Phe Arg
            100                 105                 110

gcg ctg gcc aac caa gtg gtt ggc atg ccg gtg gtg gat aag ctg gag   384
Ala Leu Ala Asn Gln Val Val Gly Met Pro Val Val Asp Lys Leu Glu
        115                 120                 125

aac cgg atc cag gag ctg gcc tgc tcg ctg atc gag agc ctg cgc ccg   432
Asn Arg Ile Gln Glu Leu Ala Cys Ser Leu Ile Glu Ser Leu Arg Pro
    130                 135                 140

caa gga cag tgc aac ttc acc gag gac tac gcc gaa ccc ttc ccg ata   480
Gln Gly Gln Cys Asn Phe Thr Glu Asp Tyr Ala Glu Pro Phe Pro Ile
145                 150                 155                 160
```

```
cgc atc ttc atg ctg ctc gca ggt cta ccg gaa gaa gat atc ccg cac   528
Arg Ile Phe Met Leu Leu Ala Gly Leu Pro Glu Glu Asp Ile Pro His
                165                 170                 175
ttg aaa tac cta acg gat cag atg acc cgt ccg gat ggc agc atg acc   576
Leu Lys Tyr Leu Thr Asp Gln Met Thr Arg Pro Asp Gly Ser Met Thr
            180                 185                 190
ttc gca gag gcc aag gag gcg ctc tac gac tat ctg ata ccg atc atc   624
Phe Ala Glu Ala Lys Glu Ala Leu Tyr Asp Tyr Leu Ile Pro Ile Ile
        195                 200                 205
gag caa cgc agg cag aag ccg gga acc gac gct atc agc atc gtt gcc   672
Glu Gln Arg Arg Gln Lys Pro Gly Thr Asp Ala Ile Ser Ile Val Ala
    210                 215                 220
aac ggc cag gtc aat ggg cga ccg atc acc agt gac gaa gcc aag agg   720
Asn Gly Gln Val Asn Gly Arg Pro Ile Thr Ser Asp Glu Ala Lys Arg
225                 230                 235                 240
atg tgt ggc ctg tta ctg gtc ggc ggc ctg gat acg gtg gtc aat ttc   768
Met Cys Gly Leu Leu Leu Val Gly Gly Leu Asp Thr Val Val Asn Phe
                245                 250                 255
ctc agc ttc agc atg gag ttc ctg gcc aaa agc ccg gag cat cgc cag   816
Leu Ser Phe Ser Met Glu Phe Leu Ala Lys Ser Pro Glu His Arg Gln
            260                 265                 270
gag ctg atc gag cgt ccc gag cgt att cca gcc gct tgc gag gaa cta   864
Glu Leu Ile Glu Arg Pro Glu Arg Ile Pro Ala Ala Cys Glu Glu Leu
        275                 280                 285
ctc cgg cgc ttc tcg ctg gtt gcc gat ggc cgc atc ctc acc tcc gat   912
Leu Arg Arg Phe Ser Leu Val Ala Asp Gly Arg Ile Leu Thr Ser Asp
    290                 295                 300
tac gag ttt cat ggc gtg caa ctg aag aaa ggt gac cag atc ctg cta   960
Tyr Glu Phe His Gly Val Gln Leu Lys Lys Gly Asp Gln Ile Leu Leu
305                 310                 315                 320
```

```
ccg cag atg ctg tct ggc ctg gat gag cgc gaa aac gcc tgc ccg atg   1008
Pro Gln Met Leu Ser Gly Leu Asp Glu Arg Glu Asn Ala Cys Pro Met
                325                 330                 335

cac gtc gac ttc agt cgc caa aag gtt tca cac acc acc ttt ggc cac   1056
His Val Asp Phe Ser Arg Glu Lys Val Ser His Thr Thr Phe Gly His
            340                 345                 350

ggc agc cat ctg tgc ctt ggc cag cac ctg gcc cgc cgg gaa atc atc   1104
Gly Ser His Leu Cys Leu Gly Gln His Leu Ala Arg Arg Glu Ile Ile
        355                 360                 365

gtc acc ctc aag gaa tgg ctg acc agg att cct gac ttc tcc att gcc   1152
Val Thr Leu Lys Glu Trp Leu Thr Arg Ile Pro Asp Phe Ser Ile Ala
    370                 375                 380

ccg ggt gcc cag att cag cac aag agc ggc atc gtc agc ggc gtg cag   1200
Pro Gly Ala Gln Ile Gln His Lys Ser Gly Ile Val Ser Gly Val Gln
385                 390                 395                 400

gca ctc cct ctg gtc tgg gat ccg gcg act acc aaa gcg gta           1242
Ala Leu Pro Leu Val Trp Asp Pro Ala Thr Thr Lys Ala Val
                405                 410             414
```

Table 8: $P450_{BM-3}$ sequence

```
1    /    1                                   31    /    11
atg aca att aaa gaa atg cct cag cca aaa acg ttt gga gag ctt aaa aat tta ccg tta
Met Thr Ile Lys Glu Met Pro Gln Pro Lys Thr Phe Gly Glu Leu Lys Asn Leu Pro Leu
61   /    21                                  91    /    31
tta aac aca gat aaa ccg gtt caa gct ttg atg aaa att gcg gat gaa tta gga gaa atc
Leu Asn Thr Asp Lys Pro Val Gln Ala Leu Met Lys Ile Ala Asp Glu Leu Gly Glu Ile
121  /41                                     151   /    51
ttt aaa ttc gag gcg cct ggt cgt gta acg cgc tac tta tca agt cag cgt cta att aaa
Phe Lys Phe Glu Ala Pro Gly Arg Val Thr Arg Tyr Leu Ser Ser Gln Arg Leu Ile Lys
181  /    61                                  211   /    71
gaa gca tgc gat gaa tca cgc ttt gat aaa aac tta agt caa gcg ctt aaa ttt gta cgt
Glu Ala Cys Asp Glu Ser Arg Phe Asp Lys Asn Leu Ser Gln Ala Leu Lys Phe Val Arg
241  /    81                                  271   /    91
gat ttt gca gga gac ggg tta ttt aca agc tgg acg cat gaa aaa aat tgg aaa aaa gcg
Asp Phe Ala Gly Asp Gly Leu Phe Thr Ser Trp Thr His Glu Lys Asn Trp Lys Lys Ala
301  /    101                                 331   /    111
cat aat atc tta ctt cca agc ttc agt cag cag gca atg aaa ggc tat cat gcg atg atg
His Asn Ile Leu Leu Pro Ser Phe Ser Gln Gln Ala Met Lys Gly Tyr His Ala Met Met
361  /    121                                 391   /    131
gtc gat atc gcc gtg cag ctt gtt caa aag tgg gag cgt cta aat gca gat gag cat att
Val Asp Ile Ala Val Gln Leu Val Gln Lys Trp Glu Arg Leu Asn Ala Asp Glu His Ile
421  /    141                                 451   /    151
gaa gta ccg gaa gac atg aca cgt tta acg ctt gat aca att ggt ctt tgc ggc ttt aac
Glu Val Pro Glu Asp Met Thr Arg Leu Thr Leu Asp Thr Ile Gly Leu Cys Gly Phe Asn
481  /    161                                 511   /    171
tat cgc ttt aac agc ttt tac cga gat cag cct cat cca ttt att aca agt atg gtc cgt
Tyr Arg Phe Asn Ser Phe Tyr Arg Asp Gln Pro His Pro Phe Ile Thr Ser Met Val Arg
541  /    181                                 571   /    191
gca ctg gat gaa gca atg aac aag ctg cag cga gca aat cca gac gac cca gct tat gat
Ala Leu Asp Glu Ala Met Asn Lys Leu Gln Arg Ala Asn Pro Asp Asp Pro Ala Tyr Asp
601  /    201                                 631   /    211
gaa aac aag cgc cag ttt caa gaa gat atc aag gtg atg aac gac cta gta gat aaa att
Glu Asn Lys Arg Gln Phe Gln Glu Asp Ile Lys Val Met Asn Asp Leu Val Asp Lys Ile
661  /    221                                 691   /    231
att gca gat cgc aaa gca agc ggt gaa caa agc gat gat tta tta acg cat atg cta aac
Ile Ala Asp Arg Lys Ala Ser Gly Glu Gln Ser Asp Asp Leu leu Thr His Met Leu Asn
721  /    241                                 751   /    251
gga aaa gat cca gaa acg ggt gag ccg ctt gat gac gag aac att cgc tat caa att att
Gly Lys Asp Pro Glu Thr Gly Glu Pro Leu Asp Asp Glu Asn Ile Arg Tyr Gln Ile Ile
781  /    261                                 811   /    271
aca ttc tta att gcg gga cac gaa aca aca agt ggt ctt tta tca ttt gcg ctg tat ttc
Thr Phe Leu Ile Ala Gly His Glu Thr Thr Ser Gly Leu Leu Ser Phe Ala leu Tyr Phe
841  /    281                                 871   /    291
tta gtg aaa aat cca cat gta tta caa aaa gca gca gaa gaa gca gca cga gtt cta gta
Leu Val Lys Asn Pro His Val Leu Gln Lys Ala Ala Glu Glu Ala Ala Arg Val Leu Val
901  /    301                                 931   /    311
gat cct gct cca agc tac aaa caa gtc aaa cag ctt aaa tat gtc ggc atg gtc tta aac
Asp Pro Val Pro Ser Tyr Lys Gln Val Lys Gln Leu Lys Tyr Val Gly Met Val Leu Asn
961  /    321                                 991   /    331
gaa gcg ctg cgc tta tgg cca act gct cct gcg ttt tcc cta tat gca aaa gaa gat acg
Glu Ala Leu Arg Leu Trp Pro Thr Ala Pro Ala Phe Ser Leu Tyr Ala Lys Glu Asp Thr
1021 /    341                                 1051  /    351
gtg ctt gga gga gaa tat cct tta gaa aaa ggc gac gaa cta atg gtt ctg att cct cag
Val Leu Gly Gly Glu Tyr Pro Leu Glu Lys Gly Asp Glu Leu Met Val Leu Ile Pro Gln
1081 /    361                                 1111  /    371
ctt cac cgt gat aaa aca att tgg gga gac gat gtg gaa gag ttc cgt cca gag cgt ttt
Leu His Arg Asp Lys Thr Ile Trp Gly Asp Asp Val Glu Glu Phe Arg Pro Glu Arg Phe
1141 /    381                                 1171  /    391
gaa aat cca agt gcg att ccg cag cat gcg ttt aaa ccg ttt gga aac ggt cag cgt gcg
Glu Asn Pro Ser Ala Ile Pro Gln His Ala Phe Lys Pro Phe Gly Asn Gly Gln Arg Ala
1201 /    401                                 1231  /    411
tgt atc ggt cag cag ttc gct ctt cat gaa gca acg ctg gta ctt ggt atg atg cta aaa
Cys Ile Gly Gln Gln Phe Ala Leu His Glu Ala Thr Leu Val Leu Gly Met Met Leu Lys
1261 /    421                                 1291  /    431
cac ttt gac ttt gaa gat cat aca aac tac gag ctg gat att aaa gaa act tta acg tta
His Phe Asp Phe Glu Asp His Thr Asn Tyr Glu Leu Asp Ile Lys Glu Thr Leu Thr Leu
1321 /    441                                 1351  /    451
aaa cct gaa ggc ttt gtg gta aaa gca aaa tcg aaa aaa att ccg ctt ggc ggt att cct
Lys Pro Glu Gly Phe Val Val Lys Ala Lys Ser Lys Lys Ile Pro Leu Gly Gly Ile Pro
1381 /    461                                 1411  /    471
```

```
cat gaa gac tat ctg tat caa gaa gag ctt gaa aac gcc caa agc gaa ggc atc att acg
His Glu Asp Tyr Leu Tyr Gln Glu Glu Leu Glu Asn Ala Gln Ser Glu Gly Ile Ile Thr
2881 /    961                                2911    /    971
ctt cat acc gct ttt tct cgc atg cca aat cag ccg aaa aca tac gtt cag cac gta atg
Leu His Thr Ala Phe Ser Arg Met Pro Asn Gln Pro Lys Thr Tyr Val Gln His Val Met
2941 /    981                                2971    /    991
gaa caa gac ggc aag aaa ttg att gaa ctt ctt gat caa gga gcg cac ttc tat att tgc
Glu Gln Asp Gly Lys Lys Leu Ile Glu Leu Leu Asp Gln Gly Ala His Phe Tyr Ile Cys
3001 /    1001                               3031    /    1011
gga gac gga agc caa atg gca cct gcc gtt gaa gca acg ctt atg aaa agc tat gct gac
Gly Asp Gly Ser Gln Met Ala Pro Ala Val Glu Ala Thr Leu Met Lys Ser Tyr Ala Asp
3061 /    1021                               3091    /    1031
gtt cac caa gtg agt gaa gca gac gct cgc tta tgg ctg cag cag cta gaa gaa aaa ggc
Val His Gln Val Ser Glu Ala Asp Ala Arg Leu Trp Leu Gln Gln Leu Glu Glu Lys Gly
3121 /    1041
cga tac gca aaa gac gtg tgg gct ggg taa
Arg Tyr Ala Lys Asp Val Trp Ala Gly OCH
```

```
tca cct agc act gaa cag tct gcc aaa aaa gca cgc aaa aag gca gaa aac gct cat aat
Ser Pro Ser Thr Glu Gln Ser Ala Lys Lys Val Arg Lys Lys Ala Glu Asn Ala His Asn
1441 /    481                                1471    /    491
acg ccg ctg ctt gtg cta tac ggt tca aat atg gga aca gct gaa gga acg gcg cgt gat
Thr Pro Leu Leu Val Leu Tyr Gly Ser Asn Met Gly Thr Ala Glu Gly Thr Ala Arg Asp
1501 /    501                                1531    /    511
tta gca gat att gca atg agc aaa gga ttt gca ccg cag gtc gca acg ctt gat tca cac
Leu Ala Asp Ile Ala Met Ser Lys Gly Phe Ala Pro Gln Val Ala Thr Leu Asp Ser His
1561 /    521                                1591    /    531
gcc gga aat ctt ccg cgc gaa gga gct gta tta att gta acg gcg tct tat aac ggt cat
Ala Gly Asn Leu Pro Arg Glu Gly Ala Val Leu Ile Val Thr Ala Ser Tyr Asn Gly His
1621 /    541                                1651    /    551
ccg cct gat aac gca aag caa ttt gtc gac tgg tta gac caa gcg tct gct gat gaa gta
Pro Pro Asp Asn Ala Lys Gln Phe Val Asp Trp Leu Asp Gln Ala Ser Ala Asp Glu Val
1681 /    561                                1711    /    571
aaa ggc gtt cgc tac tcc gta ttt gga tgc ggc gat aaa aac tgg gct act acg tat caa
Lys Gly Val Arg Tyr Ser Val Phe Gly Cys Gly Asp Lys Asn Trp Ala Thr Thr Tyr Gln
1741 /    581                                1771    /    591
aaa gtg cct gct ttt atc gat gaa acg ctt gcc gct aaa ggg gca gaa aac atc gct gac
Lys Val Pro Ala Phe Ile Asp Glu Thr Leu Ala Ala Lys Gly Ala Glu Asn Ile Ala Asp
1801 /    601                                1831    /    611
cgc ggt gaa gca gat gca agc gac gac ttt gaa ggc aca tat gaa gaa tgg cgt gaa cat
Arg Gly Glu Ala Asp Ala Ser Asp Asp Phe Glu Gly Thr Tyr Glu Glu Trp Arg Glu His
1861 /    621                                1891    /    631
atg tgg agt gac gta gca gcc tac ttt aac ctc gac att gaa aac agt gaa gat aat aaa
Met Trp Ser Asp Val Ala Ala Tyr Phe Asn Leu Asp Ile Glu Asn Ser Glu Asp Asn Lys
1921 /    641                                1951    /    651
tct act ctt tca ctt caa ttt gtc gac agc gcc gcg gat atg ccg ctt gcg aaa atg cac
Ser Thr Leu Ser Leu Gln Phe Val Asp Ser Ala Ala Asp Met Pro Leu Ala Lys Met His
1981 /    661                                2011    /    671
ggt gcg ttt tca acg aac gtc gta gca agc aaa gaa ctt caa cag cca ggc agt gca cga
Gly Ala Phe Ser Thr Asn Val Val Ala Ser Lys Glu Leu Gln Gln Pro Gly Ser Ala Arg
2041 /    681                                2071    /    691
agc acg cga cat ctt gaa att gaa ctt cca aaa gaa gct tct tat caa gaa gga gat cat
Ser Thr Arg His Leu Glu Ile Glu Leu Pro Lys Glu Ala Ser Tyr Gln Glu Gly Asp His
2101 /    701                                2131    /    711
tta ggt gtt att cct cgc aac tat gaa gga ata gta aac cgt gta aca gca agg ttc ggc
Leu Gly Val Ile Pro Arg Asn Tyr Glu Gly Ile Val Asn Arg Val Thr Ala Arg Phe Gly
2161 /    721                                2191    /    731
cta gat gca tca cag caa atc cgt ctg gaa gca gaa gaa gaa aaa tta gct cat ttg cca
Leu Asp Ala Ser Gln Gln Ile Arg Leu Glu Ala Glu Glu Glu Lys Leu Ala His Leu Pro
2221 /    741                                2251    /    751
ctc gct aaa aca gta tcc gta gaa gag ctt ctg caa tac gtg gag ctt caa gat cct gtt
Leu Ala Lys Thr Val Ser Val Glu Glu Leu Leu Gln Tyr Val Glu Leu Gln Asp Pro Val
2281 /    761                                2311    /    771
acg cgc acg cag ctt cgc gca atg gct gct aaa acg gtc tgc ccg ccg cat aaa gta gag
Thr Arg Thr Gln Leu Arg Ala Met Ala Ala Lys Thr Val Cys Pro Pro His Lys Val Glu
2341 /    781                                2371    /    791
ctt gaa gcc ttg ctt gaa aag caa gcc tac aaa gaa caa gtg ctg gca aaa cgt tta aca
Leu Glu Ala Leu Leu Glu Lys Gln Ala Tyr Lys Glu Gln Val Leu Ala Lys Arg Leu Thr
2401 /    801                                2431    /    811
atg ctt gaa ctg ctt gaa aaa tac ccg gcg tgt gaa atg aaa ttc agc gaa ttt atc gcc
Met Leu Glu Leu Leu Glu Lys Tyr Pro Ala Cys Glu Met Lys Phe Ser Glu Phe Ile Ala
2461 /    821                                2491    /    831
ctt ctg cca agc ata cgc ccg cgc tat tac tcg att tct tca tca cct cgt gtc gat gaa
Leu Leu Pro Ser Ile Arg Pro Arg Tyr Tyr Ser Ile Ser Ser Ser Pro Arg Val Asp Glu
2521 /    841                                2551    /    851
aaa caa gca agc atc acg gtc agc gtt gtc tca gga gaa gcg tgg agc gga tat gga gaa
Lys Gln Ala Ser Ile Thr Val Ser Val Val Ser Gly Glu Ala Trp Ser Gly Tyr Gly Glu
2581 /    861                                2611    /    871
tat aaa gga att gcg tcg aac tat ctt gcc gag ctg caa gaa gga gat acg att acg tgc
Tyr Lys Gly Ile Ala Ser Asn Tyr Leu Ala Glu Leu Gln Glu Gly Asp Thr Ile Thr Cys
2641 /    881                                2671    /    891
ttt att tcc aca ccg cag tca gaa ttt acg ctg cca aaa gac cct gaa acg ccg ctt atc
Phe Ile Ser Thr Pro Gln Ser Glu Phe Thr Leu Pro Lys Asp Pro Glu Thr Pro Leu Ile
2701 /    901                                2731    /    911
atg gtc gga ccg gga aca ggc gtc gcg ccg ttt aga ggc ttt gtg cag gcg cgc aaa cag
Met Val Gly Pro Gly Thr Gly Val Ala Pro Phe Arg Gly Phe Val Gln Ala Arg Lys Gln
2761 /    921                                2791    /    931
cta aaa gaa caa gga cag tca ctt gga gaa gca cat tta tac ttc ggc tgc cgt tca cct
Leu Lys Glu Gln Gly Gln Ser Leu Gly Glu Ala His Leu Tyr Phe Gly Cys Arg Ser Pro
2821 /    941                                2851    /    951
```

CLAIMS

1. Process for oxidising a substrate which is an acyclic or cyclic terpene, or a cycloalkene; or a substituted derivative thereof, which process comprises oxidising said compound with a mutant haem-containing enzyme, the mutant comprising the substitution of an amino acid in the active site by an amino acid with a less polar side-chain.

2. Process according to claim 1 in which the enzyme is a mutant of $P450_{cam}$ or $P450_{BM-3}$, or a mutant of a naturally occurring homologue of either of these enzymes.

3. Process according to claim 2 in which the enzyme is one in which amino acid 47 and/or 51 of $P450_{BM-3}$, or amino acid 96 of $P450_{cam}$, or the equivalent amino acid(s) in a said homologue, have been changed to an amino acid with a less polar side-chain.

4. Process according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 3 in which there are one or more other amino acid substitutions in the active site.

5. Process according to any one of the preceding claims in which the enzyme is (i) $P450_{cam}$ and comprises one or more of the following mutations: F87W, F87I, F87L, T185L, T185F, V247A, V247L or F87A-I395F; or (ii) $P450_{BM-3}$ and comprises the mutation R47L-Y51F.

6. An enzyme as defined in claim 4 or 5 excluding mutants of $P450_{cam}$ which only have the mutations F87A-Y96G-F193A, F87A-Y96G-F193A-C334A, or T101M-T185F-V247M.

7. A polynucleotide which comprises a sequence which encodes an enzyme as defined in claim 6.

8. A cell which expresses:

(i) an enzyme as defined in any one of claims 2 to 6 which in its naturally occurring form has an electron transfer reductase domain, or

(ii) (a) an enzyme as defined in any one of claims 1 to 5;

(b) an electron transfer reductase; and

(c) an electron transfer redoxin.

9. A cell which expresses:

(a) (i) $P450_{cam}$, or a fragment thereof; or

(ii) a naturally occurring homologue of $P450_{cam}$ or a fragment thereof; or

(iii) a mutant $P450_{cam}$, or a mutant homologue of thereof as defined in any one of claims 2 to 5; or

(iv) a $P450_{cam}$ which has at least 70% amino acid homology with (i), (ii) or (iii) and optionally has the mutations defined in any one of claims 3 to 5; and

(b) an electron transfer reductase; and

(c) an electron transfer redoxin:

excluding an *E.Coli* DH5α cell in which the only mutants of $P450_{cam}$ which are expressed are amongst the following:

H_2N-$P450_{cam}$-TDGTSST-putidaredoxin reductase-TDGASSS-putidaredoxin-COOH,

H_2N-$P450_{cam}$-TDGTRPGPGPGPGPSST-putidaredoxin reductase-TDGASSS-putidaredoxin-COOH,

H_2N-$P450_{cam}$-TDGTRPGPGPGPGPGPGPSST-putidaredoxin reductase-TDGASSS-putidaredoxin-COOH,

H_2N-putidaredoxin reductase-TDGASSS-putidaredoxin-PLEL-$P450_{cam}$-COOH.

10. A cell according to claim 8 or 9 in which (a), (b) and (c) or (b) and (c) are expressed together in the same fusion protein.

11. A cell according to any one of claims 8 to 10 in which:

(b) is putidaretoxin reductase or a fragment thereof; and/or

(c) is putidaretoxin or a fragment thereof.

12. A cell which expresses:

(a) (i) $P450_{BM-3}$, or a fragment thereof; or

(ii) a naturally occurring homologue of $P450_{BM-3}$ or a fragment thereof; or

(iii) a mutant $P450_{BM-3}$, or a mutant homologue of thereof

as defined in any one of claims 2 to 5.

13. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 5 in which the compound is oxidised in a cell according to any one of claims 8 to 12

14. A process for making a library of mutants of $P450_{cam}$ or $P450_{BM-3}$, or mutants of a homologue of either of these enzymes comprising contacting a cell according to any one of claims 9, and 10 and 11 when dependent on claim 9, or according to claim 12 or an *E.Coli* DH5α cell as defined in claim 9;

with a mutagen and/or when then the cell is a mutator cell culturing the cell in conditions in which mutants are produced.

15. Process for selecting a mutant of $P450_{cam}$ or $P450_{BM-3}$, or a homologue thereof, for its ability to oxidise a particular substrate, which process comprises screening a group of said mutants for their oxidation effect on the particular substrate.

16. Process according to claim 15 in which the mutant is additionally selected for its ability to oxidise the particular compound to a particular oxidation product.

17. A process according to claim 15 or 16 in which the screening is carried out on the library made in a process according to claim 14.

18. A process for producing a library of oxidation products comprising providing a substrate as defined in claim 1 to a library made in a process according to claim 14 and allowing oxidation of the substrate.

19. An oxidation product obtained by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and 13 wherein optionally the enzyme is one which has been selected in a process according to claim 15, 16 or 17 for use in a method of treatment of the human or animal body by therapy.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an oxidation product obtained by a process according to any one of claims 1 to 5 and 13 wherein optionally the enzyme is one which has been selected in a process according to claim 15, 16 or 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Fig.1.

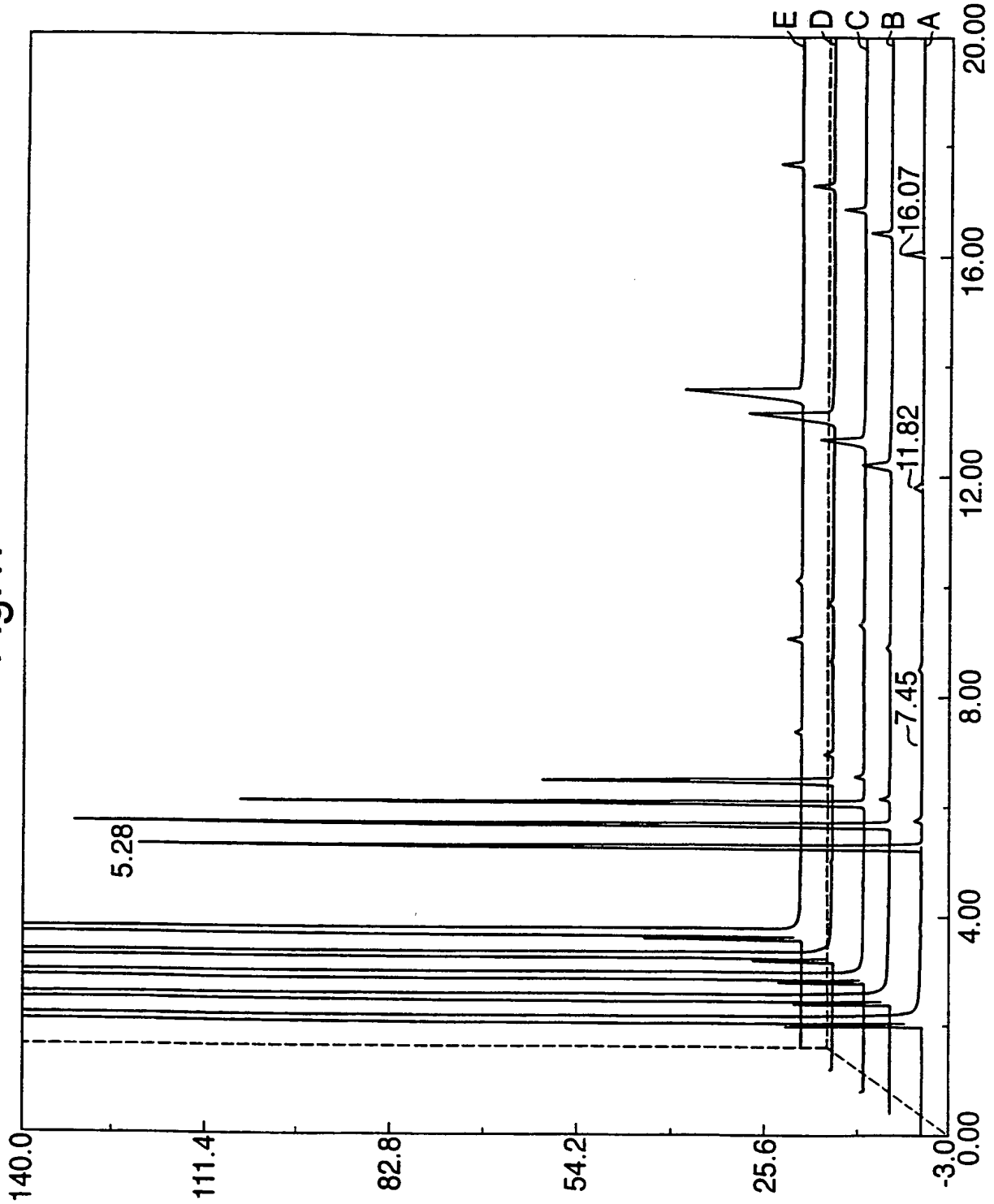


Fig.2.

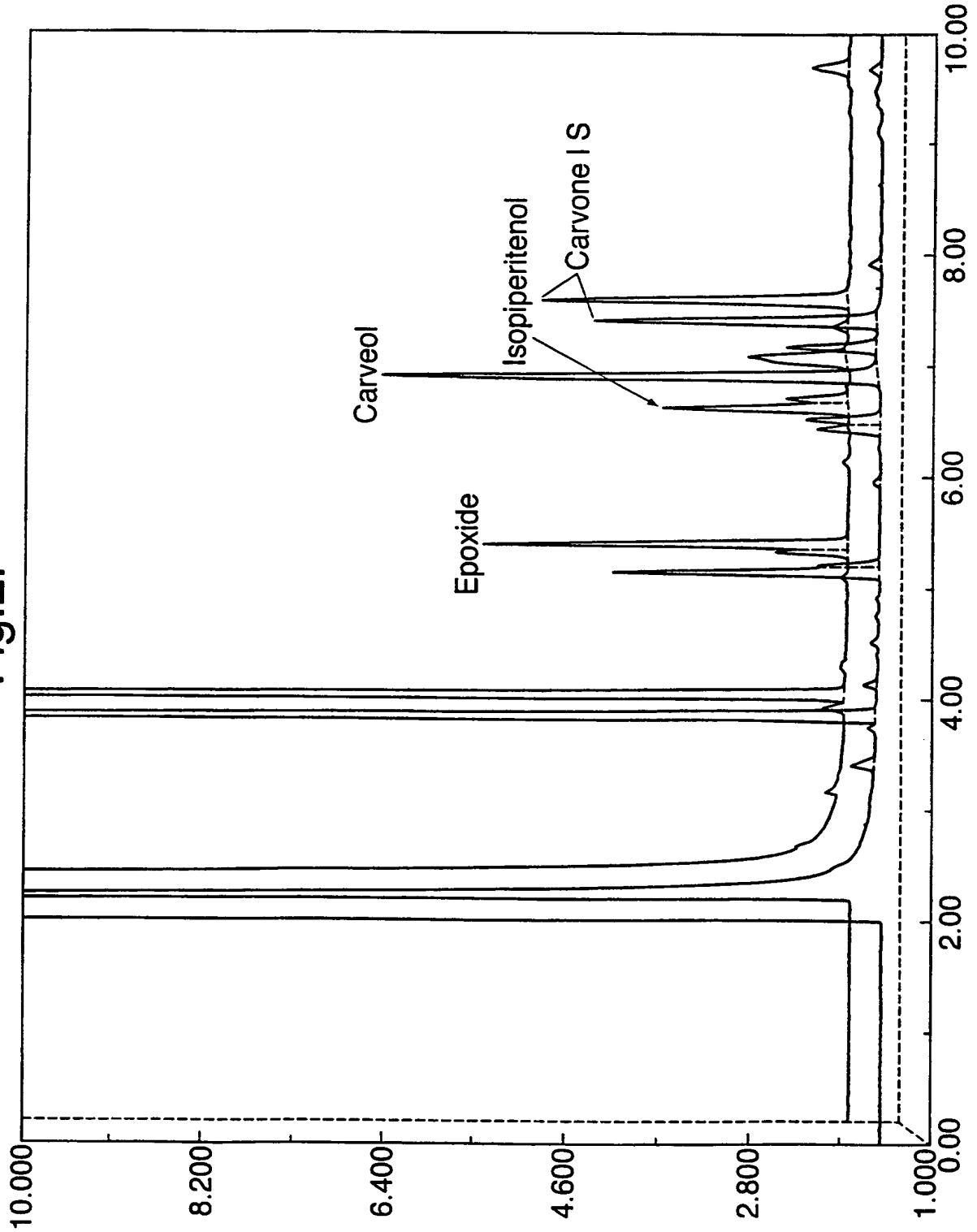


Fig.3.

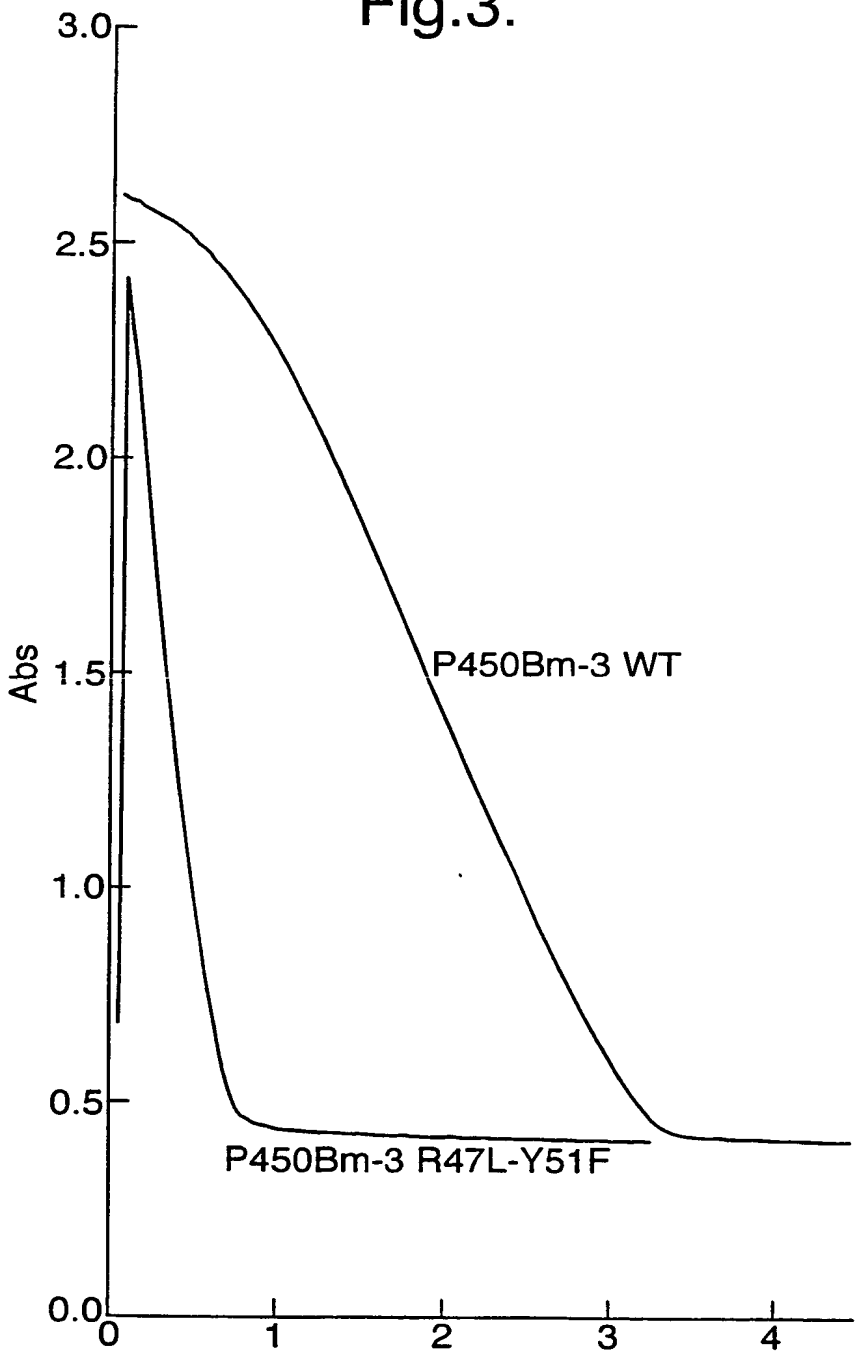
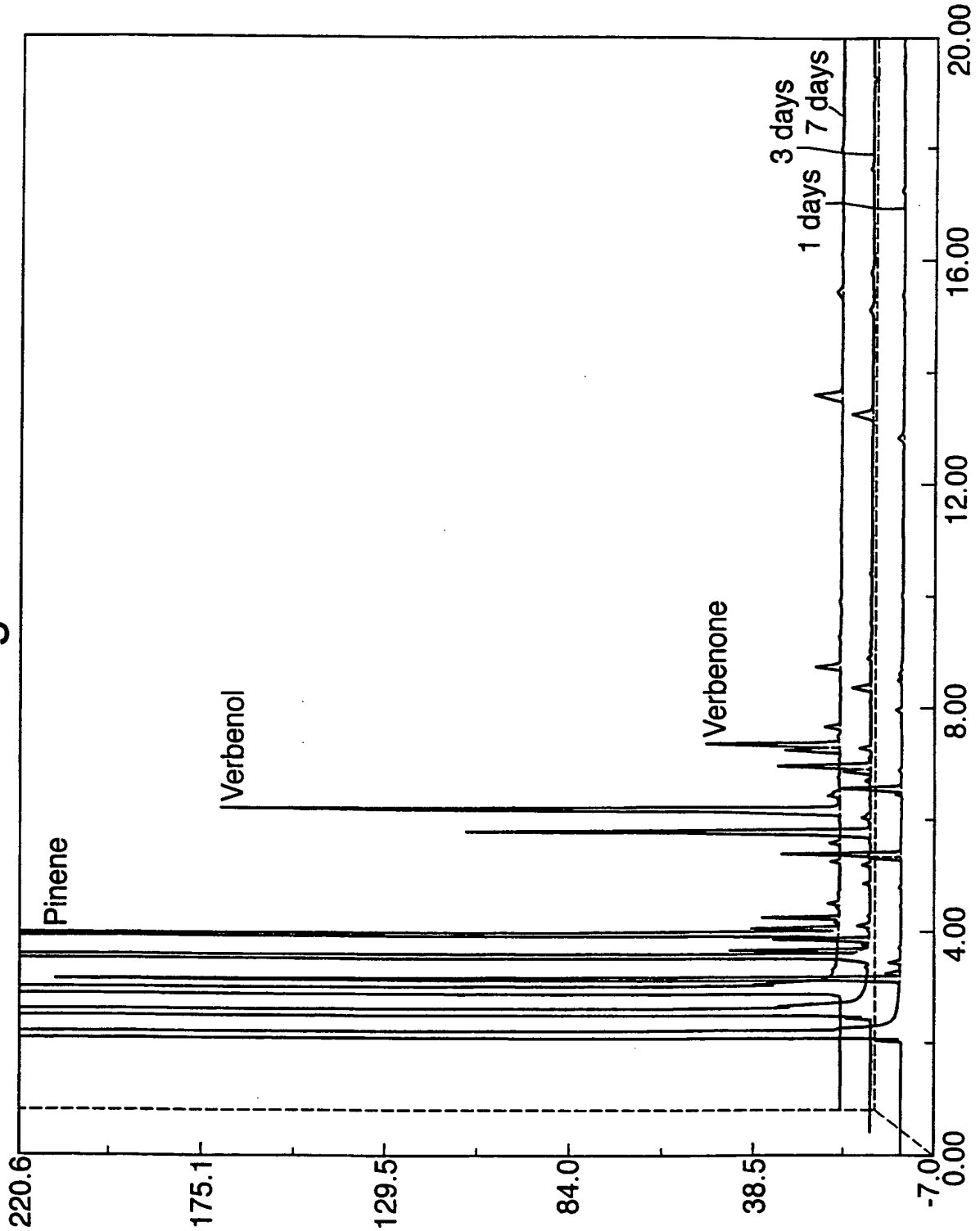


Fig.4.



PCT

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 :
C12N 15/53, 9/02, 1/21, 15/01, C12P 7/02 // (C12N 9/02, C12R 1:40) (C12N 9/02, C12R 1:11) (C12N 1/21, C12R 1:19)

A3

(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/31273

(43) International Publication Date: 2 June 2000 (02.06.00)

(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/03873

(22) International Filing Date: 19 November 1999 (19.11.99)

(30) Priority Data:
9825421.2 19 November 1998 (19.11.98) GB

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: ISIS INNOVATION LIMITED [GB/GB]; Ewert House, Ewert Place, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7BZ (GB).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: WONG, Luet, Lok [GB/GB]; University of Oxford, Dept. of Chemistry, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QR (GB). BELL, Stephen, Graham [GB/GB]; University of Oxford, Dept. of Chemistry, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QR (GB). CARMICHAEL, Angus, Bishop [GB/GB]; University of Oxford, Dept. of Chemistry, South Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3QR (GB).

(74) Agent: ELLIS-JONES, Patrick, George, Armine; J.A. Kemp & Co., 14 South Square, Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5LX (GB).

(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published
With international search report.

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
17 August 2000 (17.08.00)

(54) Title: PROCESS FOR OXIDISING TERPENES

(57) Abstract

A process for oxidising a substrate which is an acyclic or cyclic terpene, or a cycloalkene; or a substituted derivative thereof, which process comprises oxidising said compound with a mutant haem–containing enzyme, the mutant comprising the substitution of an amino acid in the active site by an amino acid with a less polar side–chain. The enzyme is typically $P450_{cam}$ or $P450_{BM-3}$. Cells and libraries of cells in which the process can be carried out or which can be used to select advantageous mutant enzymes are also provided.

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	**ES**	Spain	**LS**	Lesotho	**SI**	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	**FI**	Finland	**LT**	Lithuania	**SK**	Slovakia
AT	Austria	**FR**	France	**LU**	Luxembourg	**SN**	Senegal
AU	Australia	**GA**	Gabon	**LV**	Latvia	**SZ**	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	**GB**	United Kingdom	**MC**	Monaco	**TD**	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	**GE**	Georgia	**MD**	Republic of Moldova	**TG**	Togo
BB	Barbados	**GH**	Ghana	**MG**	Madagascar	**TJ**	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	**GN**	Guinea	**MK**	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	**TM**	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	**GR**	Greece			**TR**	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	**HU**	Hungary	**ML**	Mali	**TT**	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	**IE**	Ireland	**MN**	Mongolia	**UA**	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	**IL**	Israel	**MR**	Mauritania	**UG**	Uganda
BY	Belarus	**IS**	Iceland	**MW**	Malawi	**US**	United States of America
CA	Canada	**IT**	Italy	**MX**	Mexico	**UZ**	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	**JP**	Japan	**NE**	Niger	**VN**	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	**KE**	Kenya	**NL**	Netherlands	**YU**	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	**KG**	Kyrgyzstan	**NO**	Norway	**ZW**	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	**KP**	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	**NZ**	New Zealand		
CM	Cameroon			**PL**	Poland		
CN	China	**KR**	Republic of Korea	**PT**	Portugal		
CU	Cuba	**KZ**	Kazakstan	**RO**	Romania		
CZ	Czech Republic	**LC**	Saint Lucia	**RU**	Russian Federation		
DE	Germany	**LI**	Liechtenstein	**SD**	Sudan		
DK	Denmark	**LK**	Sri Lanka	**SE**	Sweden		
EE	Estonia	**LR**	Liberia	**SG**	Singapore		

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

[redacted]

Inte[redacted]l Application No
PC[redacted] 99/03873

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C12N15/53 C12N9/02 C12N1/21 C12N15/01 C12P7/02 //(C12N9/02,C12R1:40),(C12N9/02,C12R1:11),(C12N1/21, C12R1:19)

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 C12N C12P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	GB 2 294 692 A (BRITISH GAS PLC) 8 May 1996 (1996-05-08) abstract table 1 table 2A table 4 --- -/--	1-6 8-11

[X] Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

[X] Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
28 February 2000	23.05.00

Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Lejeune, R

1

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

[redacted]nal Application No
[redacted]T/GB 99/03873

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	ATKINS W M ET AL: "Molecular recognition in cytochrome P-450: alteration of regioselective alkane hydroxylation via protein engineering." JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY., vol. 111, 1989, pages 2715-2717, XP002131692 AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, WASHINGTON, DC., US ISSN: 0002-7863 the whole document	1-6
Y	SIBBESEN O ET AL: "Putidaredoxin reductase-putidaredoxin-cytochrome P450cam triple fusion protein" JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY., vol. 271, no. 37, 13 September 1996 (1996-09-13), pages 22462-22469, XP002131693 AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTS, BALTIMORE, MD., US ISSN: 0021-9258 abstract	8-11
A	OLIVER C F ET AL: "A single mutation in cytochrome P450 BM3 changes substrate orientation in a catalytic intermediate and the regiospecificity of hydroxylation." BIOCHEMISTRY., vol. 36, 1997, pages 1567-1572, XP002131694 AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY. EASTON, PA., US ISSN: 0006-2960 abstract	1-5
X	ENGLAND P A: "The oxidation of naphtalene and pyrene by cytochrome P450cam" FEBS LETTERS., vol. 424, 13 March 1998 (1998-03-13), pages 271-274, XP002131695 ELSEVIER SCIENCE PUBLISHERS, AMSTERDAM., NL ISSN: 0014-5793 abstract	1-6

-/--

1

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Inter[illegible]al Application No
PCT[illegible] 99/03873

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	ATKINS W M ET AL: "THE ROLES OF ACTIVE SITE HYDROGEN BONDING IN CYTOCHROME P-450 CAM AS REVEALED BY SITE-DIRECTED MUTAGENESIS" JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY,US,AMERICAN SOCIETY OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTS, BALTIMORE, MD, vol. 263, no. 35, 15 December 1988 (1988-12-15), pages 18842-18849, XP002025958 ISSN: 0021-9258 abstract ----	1-6

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of second sheet) (July 1992)

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational application No.
PCT/GB 99/03873

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheets

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☒ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-14, 17-20 all partially

Remark on Protest

☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

1. Claims: 1-14,17-20 all partially

A mutant P-450 cam in which amino acid 96 has been changed to an amino acid with a less polar side-chain. Also a nucleotide encoding it, a process for oxidising a terpene or a cycloalkene with it, a cell expressing it.

2. Claims: 1-14,17-20 all partially

Same as invention 1, but pertaining to a mutant P-450 cam in which amino acid 87 has been changed.

3. Claims: 1-14,17-20 all partially

Same as invention 1, but pertaining to a mutant P-450 cam in which amino acid 185 has been changed.

4. Claims: 1-14,17-20 all partially

Same as invention 1, but pertaining to a mutant P-450 cam in which amino acid 247 has been changed.

5. Claims: 1-14,17-20 all partially

Same as invention 1, but pertaining to a mutant P-450 cam in which an amino acid in the acive site has been changed to an amino acid with a less polar side-chain, as far as not covered by (1)-(4).

6. Claims: 1-8,10,12-14,17-20 all partially

Same as invention 1, but pertaining to a mutant P-450 BM3 in which amino acid 47 has been changed.

7. Claims: 1-8,10,12-14,17-20 all partially

Same as invention 1, but pertaining to a mutant P-450 BM3 in which amino acid 51 has been changed.

8. Claims: 1-8,10,12-14,17-20 all partially

Same as invention 1, but pertaining to a mutant P-450 BM3 in which amino acid in the acive site has been changed to an amino acid with a less polar side-chain, as far as not covered by (6)-(7).

9. Claims: 8-11,13,14,17-20 all partially

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

A cell which expresses P-450 cam, or a fragment thereof or a naturally occurring homologue or a mutant thereof, and an electron transfer reductase and an electron transfer redoxin.

10. Claims: 8,10-14,17-20 all partially

A cell which expresses P-450 BM-3, or a fragment thereof or a naturally occurring homologue or a mutant thereof.

11. Claims: 14,17-20 all partially

A process for making a library of mutants of P-450 cam or P-450 BM3 by treating cells expressing P-450 cam or P-450 BM3 with a mutagen or when the cells are mutator cells, culturing them in conditions in which mutants are produced.

12. Claims: 15,16 all completely, 17,19,20 all partially

A process for selecting a mutant of P-450 cam or P-450 BM3 for its ability to oxidise a particular substance, comprising screening a group of mutants for their oxidation effect on the particular substance.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ma[redacted] patent family members

Inter[redacted]al Application No
PC[redacted] 99/03873

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
GB 2294692 A	08-05-1996	AU 705736 B	03-06-1999
		AU 3811795 A	31-05-1996
		CN 1171818 A	28-01-1998
		CZ 9701277 A	15-10-1997
		EP 0789770 A	20-08-1997
		WO 9614419 A	17-05-1996
		JP 10503658 T	07-04-1998
		NZ 294904 A	24-09-1998
		PL 319970 A	01-09-1997
		SK 54597 A	04-02-1998